Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-95-051 *16 March 1995*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Mar

LD1603062595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0613 GMT 16 Mar 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and IZVESTIYA report without commentaries the adoption of a 1995 federal budget of the country by the State Duma of the Russian Federation after the fourth, final reading.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI supplements the report on the adoption of the budget by comment by former Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin who believes that "now that a state budget has been approved within agreed-upon parameters, there has appeared hope that the government will succeed in fulfilling its pledge to reduce inflation rate down to 1-2 percent a month towards the end of the year."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), reporting the adoption of the federal budget, arrives at a conclusion that "this year's defence expenditure is on the whole so frugal that it would be easier to disband the Army alltogether".

"The incumbent State Duma has never understood the problems of the Army and, with very few exceptions, the duputies' corps is absolutely indifferent to the destiny of 'the man in uniform' and to the defence capacity of Russia," the newspaper emphasises, promising to publish the results of a roll-call voting on the budget shortly for the readers to know who personally approved such a budget.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA gives data on the voting by individual Duma factions, reporting that the communists and the YABLOKO faction members, and the majority of the Democratic Party faction voted against the budget. The Liberal Democrats led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy supported the budget.

PRAVDA carries an interview with communist Deputy A. Gordeyev who told the newspaper that "this budget is bringing the entire Russia to bankruptcy".

Gordeyev believes that the "tough monetary policy, which has been imposed by the International Monetary Fund, results in the shutdown of enterprises, i.e. de-industrialisation".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, commenting on Tuesday's meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and leading Foreign Ministry offfials, points out that "the head of state gave clear-cut instructions to the diplomats" about the main orientations of Russian foreign policy and that they "highly appreciate the results of the meeting in the Kremlin".

"The president carried on the conversation rather dynamically and revealed deep knowledge of the ministry's affairs," the newspaper said.

IZVESTIYA maintains that during the meeting with the diplomats "the president did not voice either new ideas or sharp criticism". The newspaper believes that "Yeltsin and Kozyrev need each other now as never before" and "as long as the president remains in office, the minister may have no worries about his job".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA summarises in detail a statute of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed by a presidential decree. The statute raises the ministry's status and assigns to it the task of coordinating activities "to ensure the pursuance of Russia's single political line in relations with foreign states".

PRAVDA reports the settling of Russian refugees from Chechnya in Tambov region.

PRAVDA comments on a plan adopted at the Moscow conference "peace initiative in the Caucasus" for a settlement of the Chechnya crisis, pointing out that "the road to bringing about such a settlement will not be easy".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI comes to the same conclusion, reporting that "it is not ruled out that in the coming days Boris Yeltsin will come forward with its own initiatives to settle the Chechnya problem".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an interview with the chief of the Russian Interior Ministry's public relations centre who maintains that talks between the command of the joint group of Russian troops in Chechnya and Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of Dudayev forces, "have moved the peace process off the dead centre."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports that a shortage of insulin in Russia now amounts to almost 10 million phials. The newspaper is of the opinion that this happened after Eduard Nechayev, russian minister of health and the medical industry, stated that Russian factories completely meet the country's requirements for insulin and that no import purchases were made this year by the state.

TRUD reports that the Federation of the Independent Trade Unions of Russia has decided to hold a day of joint collective actions of trade unions throughout the country on April 12. This will be a continuation of the October 27, 1994, action which involved more than eight million people.

In the opinion of trade unions, the government has not taken measures to meet their demands for the repayment of wage arrears and the prevention of mass unemployment.

Special Services Consider 'Single Counterintelligence Space'

MK1503140095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Aleksandr Kudakayev report in the "Meeting" column: "The CIS Special Services Are Uniting"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] A conference of leaders of CIS state security bodies is under way. The talks are being held in the Moscow region, at a Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] installation. This is the first such meeting since the breakup of the USSR KGB. General Mikhaylov, chief of the FCS Public Relations Center, told SEGODNYA's correspondent that the aim of the meeting is to work out a concept for a "single counterintelligence space." The intention is to pool the efforts of CIS state special services in fighting organized crime, terrorism, smuggling, and trading in narcotics and weapons.

One participant in the meeting—Major General Saidamir Zukhurov, security minister of the Tajikistan Republic—said the plan includes not only a reciprocal exchange of information but also the conduct of joint operations. According to the minister, work on combating economic crimes is of special interest. The fact is that quite often criminals hide behind the CIS borders, which are "transparent" for them but insurmountable for law and order bodies.

Zukhurov believes that the problem of fighting illegal drug circulation is somewhat underestimated by some CIS special service chiefs. He intends to raise this question at the conference. The minister expressed the wish that the agreements worked out at the meeting do not remain just on paper.

Security Services To Coordinate Activities

LD1503203495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—The leaders of the security services of the CIS states met in Moscow Wednesday to agree on creating a standing body to coordinate their activities, Russian FSK Director Sergey Stepashin told a news conference on the results of the meeting.

A treaty defining the forms and mechanisms of the cooperation is expected to be signed in Tbilisi in two months, he added.

According to Stepashin, the meeting focused on drug and arms trafficking. He admitted that the CIS security services were a bit late to conclude cooperation agreements. "Disintegration brought no benefits to the CIS security services," he emphasized.

Deputy Chairman of the Uzbek National Security Service Anvar Salikhbayev told the meeting that "dozens of tonnes of drugs are now concentrated in the neighboring area of Afghanistan to be smuggled into CIS countries." Drug trafficking from Afghanistan raised common concern, according to many of the meeting's participants.

Stepashin said the meeting agreed to create a single database on criminals of common interest, in FSK premises in Moscow.

Answering an Interfax question, Stepashin said the meeting also touched on cooperation between CIS security services to counteract third countries' intelligence operations in the CIS. However, Stepashin declined to name which countries and special services he was referring to.

At the same time, he said: "As an FSK director, I do not have grounds to state that CIS special services work against Russia." He made it clear that his earlier statements on anti-Russian activities by neighboring countries referred to the Baltic states.

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Spokesman Explains Yeltsin Decrees on Foreign Ministry

LD1503200795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 15 (Interfax)—During his meeting with the Foreign Ministry leadership in the Kremlin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed three decrees directly concerning the ministry, information and press department director, Grigoriy Karasin, told Interfax Wednesday.

The first decree regulates the ministry's activities, assigning it functions of coordinator of Russia's foreign policy. "The question is one of inter-branch coordination, to put an end to the needless inconsistency sometimes encountered in our approach to international affairs," he added.

Karasin said the second decree enabled the Foreign Ministry to be flexibly in changing personnel policy. "Here the question is the rotation of personnel inside the ministry's central apparatus, from the central apparatus to missions abroad, etc.," he explained.

The third and final decree concerned the ministry's social problems. "In part, it envisions the creation of a centralized fund to solve social issues within the ministry's system. The issue is about the construction of apartment buildings, granting funds to provide diplomats, especially young ones, with housing. This is very important taking into account that not a single apartment has been allocated to the Foreign Ministry for the last three years," he added.

According to Karasin, the Foreign Ministry leadership met the personnel to inform them of the results of the Kremlin meeting Wednesday evening. Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke at the meeting and described the talks as "the president's demanding support of the Foreign Ministry." The minister emphasized that the presidential decrees created a solid foundation for more flexible resolution of problems faced by Russian diplomats, Karasin said.

'Bugging System' Discovered in Russian Mission in Canada

LD1603111295 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A bugging system used for many years by the Canadian counterintelligence service to spy on Soviet, and then Russian citizens, has been discovered at one of the Russian missions in Canada dealing with fishing. Police officials think that the spying equipment was probably installed about 10 years ago.

International Exercise Will Simulate Kola AES Accident

MM1303115295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Marat Zubko: "Kola AES Will Be Saved"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Helsinki—The first major international exercises to eliminate the consequences of an accident at a nuclear power station will be held on the Kola Peninsula.

The tragic events at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] showed how monstrously badly prepared the former Soviet authorities were for a nuclear accident. The UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, which was set up in 1992, is now training rescue workers, AFTENPOSTEN, a leading Norwegian newspaper, reports.

This department is organizing the first really major maneuvers. Rescue workers from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Austria will be taking part along with Russians and Norwegians. The exercises will be held in the towns of Polyarnyye Zori, Apatity, and Kandalaksha.

The scenario will be that there has been an accident at the Kola AES which is accompanied by a major discharge of radioactive material—consequently, the rescue teams will have to evacuate residents of neighboring towns and villages, decontaminate the area, and look after AES personnel.

Traveling with the Norwegian rescue workers to the maneuvers will be experts from the State Committee for Radiation Protection and the Norwegian Civil Readiness Directorate. Norway considers the Kola AES very dangerous.

Russia Welcomes Change in Croatian Position on UNPROFOR

LD1503172495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Russia welcomes the fact that Zagreb has reviewed its "radical" decision not to extend the mandate of the UN Protection Forces in Croatia after March 31.

"We consider the change in Zagreb's position as a manifestation of reason," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow today.

He said Moscow was not in fact against withdrawing the UN Protection Forces from the operation concerning Croatia. Karasin said the heart of a new operation mandate must be deployment of the UN forces in the separation zones for preventing more military actions. He said that among the key functions of the UN forces must be to maintain the cease-fire and to control implementation of the economic agreement.

Karasin said that it was necessary that Knin support the new mandate as a party to the conflict.

Karasin said Russia doubted the possibility of adopting a new UN mandate in a short term, considering all the problems concerning the work of the UN Security

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Council on a mandate for another operation in Croatia. "Rushing will only do harm," he added.

Moscow, Kiev Agree To Transfer Strategic Bombers to Russia

LD1503171395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Moscow and Kiev have agreed on transferring to Russia a group of strategic bombers stationed in Ukraine, a Russian source told Interfax Wednesday.

He said that the two sides were negotiating over the compensation by Russia to Ukraine for the transfer of 19 Tu-160 and 25 Tu-95 MS aircraft.

According to the source, the compensation will be put towards partly offsetting the Ukrainian debt for Russian fuels.

Kiev is said to appraise the aircraft at $250 million and Moscow at $180 million. The source said that the earlier evaluations had been $700 million and $70 million, respectively.

The compensation size will be agreed during the visit Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets is expected to pay to Kiev later in the month.

Officers in the Russian Air Force headquarters attribute success in the talks to Leonid Kuchma's team rise to power in Kiev.

One officer described the understanding reached with Kiev as mutually beneficial. In his view, Ukraine could not afford such a group of strategic bombers.

Navy Staff 'Perplexed' at Ukrainian Navy Chief's Move

MM1603105495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha: "Commander in Chief in Exchange for Sailor's Vests?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Navy Commander Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy has resigned because he disagrees with his government's position on the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

There has so far been no official confirmation from Kiev that the Ukrainian Navy commander's resignation has been accepted. But people in Moscow at the Navy Main Staff simply expressed perplexity about this: The resignation is of course Bezkorovaynyy's personal affair but did he have to take that step when positive changes had taken shape in Ukrainian-Russian relations with regard to the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet?

The Russian side's proposal to begin handing over 14 March the weapons, hardware, housing, and barracks of Black Sea Fleet units stationed in Ochakov shows that the negotiating process is returning to normal and moving on to practical action. This proposal fully accords with the Ukrainian side's previously avowed intentions of creating a western maritime zone [zapadnyy morskoy rayon] in this region. On the Russian side this step has become possible in connection with the planned reorganization of the Black Sea Fleet. The commission led by Rear Admiral Nikolay Kostrov, first deputy commander of the Ukrainian Navy, is due to receive the property released by the disbanded Black Sea Fleet units by 1 April.

Russian Army Base To Be Set Up in Armenia

LD1503171195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—The presidents of Russia and Armenia, Boris Yeltsin and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, are due to sign a treaty on Thursday to set up a Russian army base in Armenia, Yeltsin's press service said.

The meeting, to be held in the Kremlin, is beginning at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT), the press service said in a release, obtained by Interfax.

A Russian Defense Ministry official told Interfax the base—"a combat control group... And a motorized infantry regiment"—would be located in the northern Armenian town of Gyumri.

The treaty, to be valid for 25 years and automatically extended by another five if neither side objects, "provides a legal basis for the presence of Russian troops on Armenian territory," the official said. "It also defines the status of Russian troops and specifies their location and composition."

Ter-Petrosyan is returning to Yerevan on Thursday evening, an Armenian diplomat told Interfax in Moscow.

Karasin Hopes For Constitutional Solution to Kazakh Crisis

LD1503151395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry sees Kazakhstan's parliamentary crisis as an extension of "internal development" of this country, director of the ministry's press department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing today.

Karasin voiced hope that the crisis would be overcome by constitutional means, and the next election of the legislature would strictly conform to law and generally recognised democratic norms.

According to Karasin, Russia was satisfied with the statement of Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister

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Kasymzhomart Tokayev that the Kazakh government will adhere to its international commitments and will consistently develop cooperation with foreign states, and international political and financial organisations.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Relations

LD1403175995 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, March 14, IRNA—Russian deputy foreign minister, Viktor Ivanov, in his meeting with the Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Safari here on Monday, termed the process of Moscow-Tehran ties as "positive and constructive" and underlined the necessity of expanding cooperation in different fields.

Safari for his part briefed Ivanov on recent developments in bilateral ties and termed prospects of industrial and economic ties as "bright and hopeful".

Referring to the recent visits of Russian delegations to Iran, Safari stressed on importance of consultations between Tehran and Moscow for expanding bilateral relations as well as mutual and regional cooperation.

Ivanov termed the Russian delegations' visits to Tehran especially the recent sessions to review bilateral ties as "positive", and Moscow's readiness for continuuing talks with Iran at different levels.

He termed mutual cooperation especially in the fields of trade and economy as good and noted that this could be a suitable basis for expansion of ties in the future.

Ivanov emphasized that the Russian Foreign Ministry is ready to provide any help for promoting Tehran-Moscow ties, and added that Moscow is keen on playing host to the Iranian deputy foreign minister in order to review ways for expansion of mutual ties.

Karasin Says Russia 'Worried' by Fighting in Afghanistan

LD1503152295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vsevolod Polonskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin declared today that Russia feels worried by reports from Afghanistan about the aggravation of confrontation between the warring groups in that country entailing fierce battles for control of Kabul and numerous casualties, particularly among peaceful civilians.

The spokesman said Russia continued, as before, to firmly call for the peaceful settlement in Afghanistan on basis of national reconciliation taking into account the interests of the widest possible range of Afghan political forces.

He said the termination of the prolonged armed conflict was necessary also in order to stabilise the situation in the region which is tangibly threatened by such effects of the civil war in Afghanistan as export of drugs and weapons to neighbouring countries, as well as the penetration of mercenaries recruited on the Afghan territory.

Russia, according to Karasin, is ready to support international efforts aiming to establish peace in Afghanistan, preserve its territorial integrity and take into consideration the specifics and political trends existing in that country.

Russia is prepared to consider other parallel steps to assist national reconciliation and the settlement in Afghanistan if the Afghan parties express such a wish, the spokesman said.

Maritime Kray Police Deport Illegal Chinese Visitors

OW1403060095 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0630 GMT 1 Mar 95

[From the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] An operation by the Maritime Kray police to identify PRC citizens in the kray who have invalid passports or expired visas has been undertaken on a broad scale. About 1,000 illegal Chinese have been detained and sent home since the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, according to the police, about 2,000 more citizens from the neighboring country are still in the Maritime Kray illegally. With the aim of identifying and subsequently deporting them, police officers are checking city markets and the so-called Chinese quarter daily.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Cancels Meeting With Aircraft Designers

LD1503134095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to hold a number of important meetings tomorrow and it seems that in order to prepare for them the president changed his schedule today. He was unable to attend a meeting with Russian aircraft designers today, ITAR-TASS learned today from a well-informed sources in the Kremlin.

Yeltsin was expected to take part in a meeting with the country's aircraft designers in Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. The meeting was held in connection with the launch of a new Russian cargo aircraft TU-204S.

Yeltsin: Moscow To Intensify Talks With Chechnya

LD1603105095 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0952 GMT 16 Mar 95

["Novosti" newscast report by announcer Aleksandra Buratayeva]

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal authorities will be holding more intensive talks with the Chechen Republic, Boris Yeltsin told correspondents from the leading Western and Egyptian newspapers at a meeting today. The meeting is important not only for Boris Yeltsin but also for Western leaders. Many of them are experiencing difficulties in communicating with Russia unless they are supported by the electorate—potential readers of leading newspapers.

The meeting spoke positively about a forthcoming visit to Russia by U.S. President Bill Clinton. The dates for his visit are being negotiated.

Russian correspondents haven't been invited to attend the meeting.

Chernomyrdin Calls on Government To Solve Chechen Crisis

LD1503152595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin called upon all branches of government to devise a coordinated approach towards the Chechen problem in order to solve it "in a united front".

In a letter to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin on Wednesday, Chernomyrdin said that this proposal "especially concerned the principles of political settlement" in Chechnya, a spokesman for the Russian Government told TASS.

Valeriy Grishin quoted the prime minister as saying in his letter that the current situation in Chechnya excluded the possibility of resolving the crisis overnight. For the settlement to be successful, a well-considered and coordinated plan should be implemented stage by stage.

According to the spokesman, such a plan developed by the government was submitted by Chernomyrdin to President Boris Yeltsin during their working meeting on Tuesday and was approved by the latter.

In his letter to parliament's lower house speaker, the prime minister gives details of this plan, which contains the following sections:

—measures to achieve a peace political settlement of the Chechen crisis;

—measures to stabilize the social and economic situation in the Chechen Republic;

—measures to ensure information support of the activities by federal authorities to settle the Chechen crisis.

In his letter, Chernomyrdin notifies Rybkin that he would convene within the next few days a meeting of the public council under the prime minister with a view to review the performance on the first stages of the peace settlement plan and to outline measures to be further taken.

The meeting of the public council may take place as early as on Thursday, the spokesman said.

Kremlin Meeting Suggests 'No Changes' in Foreign Policy

MM1603102595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Yeltsin and Kozyrev Need Each Other"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the leadership of the Foreign Ministry, held in the Kremlin Tuesday, was surprisingly low-key and confirmed that the time when feelings ran high about Russian foreign policy is a thing of the past. Insofar as we could make out from what the discussion participants said, the president did not produce any new ideas but did not voice any sharp criticism either. Outlining the priority areas for diplomatic activity, Yeltsin did not go into a detailed analysis, leaving that task to Andrey Kozyrev's subordinates.

Probably the most important result of the conference was Yeltsin's statement that the Foreign Ministry will continue to be the main coordinator of the country's foreign policy. Yet quite recently in his message to the Federal Assembly Yeltsin voiced the, to Kozyrev, very dangerous idea of setting up a special organ within the

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framework of the Presidential Staff which would coordinate the interests of the various departments in the international arena—which would inevitably push the Foreign Ministry into the background. Judging by everything, the threat has passed, and Kozyrev can breathe easy.

The Kremlin meeting showed that no changes to foreign policy are envisioned in the foreseeable future. The diplomacy of the "later Kozyrev" entirely suits Yeltsin. Consistently pursuing what he calls the "presidential line in international affairs," the minister has clearly managed to convince Boris Nikolayevich of his own personal devotion. And even if Yeltsin had any doubts on that score, they should have receded following Kozyrev's pointed break with "Russia's Choice."

Yeltsin and Kozyrev need each other now more than ever. While the president remains in power, the minister need have no worries about his position. The course which Kozyrev has recently been pursuing (opposition to NATO's eastward expansion, a campaign to get the sanctions against Belgrade lifted, and admiration for Saddam Husayn's "wisdom") is ideally suited to the presidential team, inspiring in it the hope that the "patriotic" section of the electorate will value the doggedness with which the Russian authorities are upholding the state's "vitally important interests" in the international arena.

Shakhray Says State Program Will Support Russians Abroad

LD0903210795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 9 (Interfax)—The Russian government will develop a state program to support the Russian community abroad, including in the political, economic and cultural aspects, according to a presidential decision. This statement was made by the chairman of the government commission for compatriots abroad, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, at a commission meeting in Moscow Thursday [9 March].

Shakhray remarked that though the work to support compatriots had been observably intensified and all top-priority activities planned for this year had been fulfilled "to this or that extent," its scale and outcomes did not correspond to the importance of the issue. The lack of budget and non-budget sources to finance the activities questioned the implementation of many of them, he added.

While debating the guidelines of higher education policy in the CIS and Baltic states, the meeting established the urgency to create a single educational space in the former Soviet Union and the pressing need to preserve the Russian language.

Moscow Adopts Economic Policy To Get IMF Credit

LD1603105995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0927 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Mar—Today at its sitting the Russian Cabinet of Ministers adopted a statement of the government and the Central Bank on economic policy in 1995; it will be sent to the International Monetary Fund to obtain IMF reserve credit amounting to $6.25 billion for this year.

Speaking at the sitting of the government Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that the joint statement of the government and the Central Bank envisages "to a considerable degree inflation-free financing of the federal budget, corresponding tough monetary-credit policy, a number of major measures to strengthen state revenue and further significant liberalization of the foreign trade." "All these allow real financial stabilization to be achieved this year," the prime minister noted.

Viktor Chernomyrdin said the 1995 economic policy program, with regard to which "a great deal of work has been carried out by the Russian Government and the IMF, enjoys full support of President Boris Yeltsin, and the president is prepared to use all means at his disposal to ensure that it is successful."

Chernomyrdin said that the completion of the talks between the Russian leaders and the IMF managing director Michel Camdessus last week, which agreed on virtually all principled issues relating to obtaining the $6 billion credit and which discussed all aspects of the 1995 economic policy of the Russian Government and the Central Bank, was a kind of "vote of confidence given by the world community to our economic policy."

Government To Discuss 1995-97 Economic Program

LD1603113195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov, Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The Russian Government will discuss at its extraordinary meeting on March 18 a medium-term programme of Russia's economic development for 1995-1997, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at today's meeting of the government.

Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Yasin was assigned to make a report on the medium-term programme of Russia's economic development, Chernomyrdin continued. The extraordinary government meeting will be held on March 18 within the framework of preparations for an expanded government session, scheduled for March 24,

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which will discuss, aside from the medium-term programme, the economic situation in Russia and its prospects in general, as well as measures for putting into effect the president's address to the Federal Assembly.

Russia Does Not Plan To Import Grain

LD1303173195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 13 (Interfax)—Russia does not plan to import grain and will try to make do until the new harvest, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha said at a news conference in Moscow Monday. He hoped that the state reserves would make this possible.

Zaveryukha said that the decline of the grain harvest to 81.3 million tonnes in 1994, compared to 99 million in 1993 and 106.8 million in 1992, had been coupled with reduction in domestic demand and better use of grain following the liberalization of the grain market.

In particular, the state discontinued the practice of purchasing nearly all marketable grain and then distributing it from centralized resources and set up a federal reserve for the armed forces and the Far East and regional reserves of grain.

Zaveryukha said that most regions looked after their needs and made a better use of finances made available to them by the state for their needs.

Falling demand for grain, he explained, is a result of decline in the number of cattle and ending the use of grain for fodder. Zaveryukha added that grain was in short supply on the world market.

He said that grain supply to certain areas of Russia, in particular the Far East, was likely to run into problems but the overall situation was under control.

Unions Consider Nationwide Protest Action, Elections Pact

LD1403132795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1132 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 14 (Interfax)—The Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions has invited its members (42 industrial and 78 regional union) to consider holding a nation-wide protest action against declining living standards on April 12. This decision was made by the Executive Committee of the federation at a Monday session near Moscow.

The Deputy Chairman of the federation, Aleksey Surikov, told Interfax this step has been forced on workers by the delays on the part of the government in paying its debts to working people.

He said the forms of protest may vary depending on the situation in a particular region or industry. At the same time, Surikov said, the government has the time and opportunities to resolve the problem by April 12.

The session also discussed the functioning of the recently-formed election alliance Unions of Russia. According to Surikov, the federation intends to nominate candidates independently (if it is permitted by the future election law) and align with political parties and movements supporting the unions. Among possible partners Surikov named the Agrarian, Communist and Socialist Labor Parties.

Tiraspol's Col. Bergman on Feared Action in Moscow 18 Mar

MK1603112095 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 11/87, 16-22 Mar (Signed to press 15 Mar) p 2

[Interview with Colonel Mikhail Bergman, chief of staff of the Russian 14th Army garrison in Tiraspol, by Rodion Morozov under the "Hello!" rubric: "Mikhail Bergman Claims: 'Fighters Are Leaving for Moscow Every Day'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors continue of fighters arriving in Russia from the Dniester Region and an "action" they plan in Moscow on 18 to 20 March. Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] spokesmen say the man who has caused the stir—Mikhail Bergman, chief of the 14th Army Tiraspol garrison military commandant's office—simply decided once more to attract attention to himself. Yet the commandant insists on his claim in a telephone interview with OBSHCHAYA GAZETA observer Rodion Morozov....

[Bergman] Groups of five to ten continue to leave for Moscow every day. According to information available to us, also confirmed by Sergey Kozmiruk, former commander of the "Dniester" battalion, they are using Kozelsk as their trans-shipment point. From there, they are carried across to the Moscow area. There is also information that Ukrainian fighters from the Ukrainian National Army-Ukrainian National Defense Union are also starting to arrive in Moscow.

[Morozov] How did the Dniester leadership react to your statement?

[Bergman] Some panic is to be seen here. Fearing publicity, the Dniester Republic of Moldova's [DRM] State Security Minister Vadim Shevtsov and his deputy Oleg Gudymo are on the phone trying to persuade their men to come back. None, however, has returned. At the same time, "infighting" has begun. The republic's Ministry of State Security [MSS] has arrested heads of two of the DRM's major banks—Vitaliy Bondarenko of the "Tiraspolskiy" bank, and Sergey Vergus of the "Slavyanskiy" bank. The reason being that both had refused Shevtsov's request to finance the action. They were asked for $1 million and $400,000 correspondingly. Also under arrest is Major Viktor Filatov of the DRM MSS—he did not agree to participate in shipping arms to Moscow.

[Morozov] There was a press report saying that the fighters are based in the Moscow area at dachas provided

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for them by Barkashov and Zhirinovskiy. Do you have information on the DRM MSS' links with the RNU [Russian National Unity] and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]?

[Bergman] There are at the moment more than 40 RNU representatives in the Dniester Region. They are carrying out agitation work, disseminating newspapers and leaflets. Also known are their contacts with the same Shevtsov and other MSS chiefs. The Dniester leaders themselves are on record as having more than once referred to their Moscow friends—Barkashov, Zhirinovskiy, Anpilov.

[Morozov] Col. Nikitin, 14th Army military counterintelligence chief, sent a telegram to his heads in Moscow detailing your fears. What is the answer?

[Bergman] Silence so far. At the same time, here is a curious fact. The telegram to Moscow was of course classified. The day it was sent, however, Col. Gudymo, deputy state security minister of the DRM, went on the air to say that "Bergman is sending telegrams to the FCS." The information leak happened instantly.

[Morozov] Aleksandr Mikhaylov, FCS Public Relations Center head, was rather skeptical about your claims of an impending threat to Moscow. Are you sure troubles are really waiting to happen in the capital on 18 March?

[Bergman] I am not completely sure. I only speak about what I know for sure: shipped to Moscow in good time was a huge amount of explosives, grenades, bullets. There is no dearth of disturbing things. It is not ruled out that nothing will happen in Moscow on 18 March in addition to the planned Congress of the Russian People, thank God! I, however, think back to October 1993 when we were sounding an alarm about the moving to Moscow of "White House defenders" from the Dniester Region. They would not believe us. Next those "defenders" were bragging here about killing Muscovites. Do you want this repeated?

Media Issues

Ostankino TV Company Chairman Yakovlev Resigns

LD1603115695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Aleksandr Yakovlev has announced his resignation from the post of chairman of the Ostankino TV Company.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Moscow To Boost Weapons Sales in 1995

LD1503173795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Russia will step up arms sales in 1995 with contracts expected to total $2.5 billion to $3 billion, Gennadiy Yanpolskiy, deputy chairman of the Russian State Defense Industry Committee, said at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday.

He said that $1.7 billion in Russian arms had been sold abroad in 1994.

Yanpolskiy expected the INDEX-95 exhibition of weapons to be held in Abu Dhabi in mid-March, where over 100 Russian research institutions, design boards and defense factories will show 250 types of military hardware to promote the Russian weapon sales. Compared with 1993, Russian participation will double. One half of the models have never been demonstrated abroad.

Yanpolskiy listed a 5.56 mm Kalashnikov assault rifle, a portable and transportable anti-missile Kornet E system, range of 5.5 kilometers and laser guidance; radioelectronic interference system REP; and an Igla missile system, the only one in the world firing two rockets at once, as among the items that are likely to cause attract the most attention at the exhibition.

In Abu Dhabi Russia will also show a non-interceptible ship-to- ship Moskit missile, a range of 120 kilometers and flying at a speed of 3,000 kilometers an hour, a hydrofoil landing ship Zubr capable of carrying three tanks and a landing and a rescue flying wings with a range of 2,000 kilometers and a speed of 450 kilometers an hour.

MoD Conference Finds Army Stretched Thin Due to Chechnya

MK1403120095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Semenov: "The Fate of Five-Graders Is Sealed. The Country Needs Artillery Men and Snipers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Virtually everybody who could have been has now been sent to Chechnya. Ground forces are no longer scattered around the infinite expanses of the Motherland but concentrated all in one place. This is even convenient: In the event of a surprise attack by some hostile power, everything is ready.

True, there are also some problems. The old timers' terms of service are running out. Spring is the time of demobilization, when they are to go home. Under a presidential edict recruits may not be sent to the front. Therefore those who ended up in Chechnya will have to stay under fire for approximately six months more. They are not so many after all: The last two call-ups were not exactly a success. The army is heavily undermanned.

No, not everything is that bad. We still have forces not engaged in the conflict. Air defense troops or, say, submariners. But these are apparently in reserve "for a rainy day." Submarines will move on Chechnya when no ground troopers have been left around.

The 10 March conference of deputy ministers and chiefs of main and central directorates of the Defense Ministry discussed what to do with Chechnya next and how to raise enough soldiers for this noble cause.

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Groznyy has presumably not been "cleaned" yet. Groups of irregulars are still supposed to be operating in southern areas: Neftyanka, Chernorechye, and Prigorodnyy. It is quiet only in the north of the city while the center and especially the south are zones of enhanced danger. Even so it was decided that as of 19 March, Defense Ministry forces will be pulled out of Groznyy; the "south grouping," which blocked southwestern approaches to the city, will be ordered to move to the area of Khankala airport where it will be placed under the control of the "northern group command." From there they will together move on Argun. Under cannon support fire, they will gradually surround it until it is fully blocked and then wait until the gunmen flee it of their own free will.

In the process of encirclement the command is officially authorized to enter negotiations with field commanders and to conclude local agreements. To the effect that we will not bomb you while you abandon your "guerrilla" escapades and let us sleep calmly. Such local negotiations and cease-fires were practiced also in the past, but informally. Now the highest permission has been given: This may and must be done. So presumably there will be fewer losses.

Nothing was said at the conference about how long it will take to seize Argun. This is not predictable. After Argun the same will be done with Gudermes. And then one will have to see.

In the "liberated" but "uncleaned" Groznyy, as of 19 March, Ministry of Internal Affairs troops will take over. The Dzerzhinskiy Division still blocks all roads to the city while Special-Purpose Militia Detachments control residential areas and residents. Thorough checks, lists, searches, arrests—the works. Understandably, the same fate awaits Argun and Gudermes.

On the whole, reinstating constitutional order is a thorough and painstaking business, and will last for years.

The military now has one main task: the draft. In spring everybody will be called up. Circumspect parents who have sons of average school age should apparently start thinking about their fate. Younger schoolboys can so far sleep in peace. There is the hope that things will be over in Chechnya before they are 18.

True, if things go on like this, Dagestan and Ingushetia could well befall them. According to the assessment made at the conference, the situation there is "pre-Chechen."

Military Engineers on Destroying Chemical Weapons Stockpile

OW0903093795 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 2345 GMT 25 Mar 95

[From the "Aty-Baty" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Forty thousand tonnes of poisonous substances stored in arsenals around the country are subject to destruction according to the international convention on nonproliferation of chemical weapons which Russia joined last year.

Every type of poisonous substance requires its own particular technology for destruction. According to military chemical engineers we have this sort of technology available at the laboratory level. However it cannot be considered proven or applicable to the mass destruction of chemical weapons until it has passed experimental industrial tests. [video shows drums stored in a depot, checkpoints leading to industrial facility, laboratory technicians working with instruments, liquids]

The fine-tuning of the technology and of the entire process of destruction requires enormous sums of money. Experts mention a figure of about $15 billion. There is currently nowhere to get so much money, even hypothetically. The state program for the destruction of chemical weapons has not yet been adopted, despite the existence of numerous projects. There is a total absence of any sort of legislative basis for this process, and there is no clear idea about potential sites for the destruction of the weapons.

In fact, there is at present no concept of this process at the state level, and therefore no source of funding. [video cuts to show Colonel A. S. Rodionov, doctor of technical sciences and head of the special processes and equipment faculty at the Military Academy of Chemical Defense, speaking to off-screen reporter]

[Begin recording, apparently in progress]...in this age of scientific and technical progress. In other words there are no problems in solving this issue. If we can create such unique things, then the destruction of chemical weapons can be made completely safe. However, going back to...[Rodionov changes thought] You understand you are constantly asking questions and I would like to give you the correct answer, or one which will put everybody at ease. After all, our world is multidimensional. I recall talking to some fellows from the MGU [Moscow State University] and they said that in principle all science at present...[Rodionov changes thought] Our logic at present is one of black and white—either yes or no. You want me to answer yes or no. But in reality our world is one of color, it is multidimensional. So things do not simply depend on technology. They also depend on who is involved with this destruction, and who is making the equipment.

So I repeat that there is no yes or no answer. A certain politician and scientist said: If it is sweet, more will eat it, if it is bitter more will spit it out. So the solution to the chemical weapons destruction issue is neither sweet nor sour. It is sweet and sour. So a decision must be found which is the correct one. [end recording]

State of Nuclear Reactors in Severodvinsk Viewed

LD0903173195 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Valentin Bogomolov] There are a huge number of atomic reactors in

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Severodvinsk, close to the center of town. There are almost 40 of them and several are showing signs of depressurization. Some atomic submarines have been here for 10 years or more waiting to be decommissioned. Let us hope that none of these reactors explodes, because it would not be like Chernobyl. We have just found out that military authorities have not allowed civilian experts into enterprises where urgent work had begun to decommission the atomic reactor of a functioning submarine that had problems with the reactor. [passage omitted]

You would think the experience of Chernobyl would be enough for people to understand, this is not like Chernobyl—there are dozens of reactors here.

Parameters of Soyuz TM-21; Craft To Dock With Mir

LD1503151995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0831 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Flight Control Center, 15 Mar—The flight of the Soyuz TM-21 spacecraft, with the Russian-American crew on board comprising Vladimir Dezhurov, Gennadiy Strekalov, and Norman Thagard, continues. Yesterday, official operations were carried out to check the functioning of the onboard systems of the craft and the first two-impulse maneuver was performed for remote approach to the Mir complex.

Another correction to the trajectory of Soyuz TM-21 is planned for today. Currently the parameters of its orbit are:

—apogee, 320 km;

—perigee, 230 km;

—period of revolution, 89.8 minutes;

—inclination, 51.6 degrees.

Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova, and Valeriy Polyakov are preparing to meet the crew of the 18th main expedition. Calculated time of docking of the Soyuz TM-21 craft with the Mir scientific research complex is 1046 hours on 16 March.

Today the flight of the unmanned transport craft Progress M-26 was completed. The separation of the space truck from the Mir orbital complex was carried out at 0527 hours Moscow time. After orientation in space and braking with the aid of its engine, the Progress M-26 went into a descent trajectory and burnt up in the dense layers of the earth's atmosphere.

Plesetsk To Launch Three Satellites 28 Mar

LD1503163695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Russia's Strategic Missile Forces plan to launch a space rocket on March 28 which is to put three satellites in orbit, the forces said Wednesday.

The launching is part of the START program, according to a press release obtained by Interfax.

The rocket, to take off from the Plesetsk space testing ground, was made on the basis of the Topol strategic missile, which the Russian Army still has in its arsenal, the release said.

Federal Assembly

Duma Hears Figures on Chechen Expenditures

LD1503134995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian at 1300 GMT on 15 March carries a three-minute poorly received report on State Duma approval of the budget for 1995. The deficit is 73 trillion rubles - about 30 percent of expenditure, it says. Gennadiy Kulik, member of the Agrarian faction, is quoted as saying the agro-industrial sector has received the maximum possible allocations.

Mikhail Zadornov, member of the Duma Budget Committee, says that expenditures in the Ministry of Internal Affairs have amounted to 400 billion rubles and those in the Ministry of Defense to 600-700 billion rubles since the start of military operations in the Chechen Republic.

Zadornov adds that the government has promised to draft a separate bill on Chechen expenditure to submit to the State Duma.

Rough Passage Expected for Duma Election Law

MK1503131095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Indira Dunayeva in the "Parliament" column under general headline: "Arithmetic Struggles in the State Duma. The Deputies Discuss Election Rules as a Basis of the Their Own Well-Being"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the State Duma will give a second reading to the bill "On Elections for Deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly." It will be recalled that among the alternative versions of the draft, on first reading the deputies approved a presidential draft, making several qualifications at once, however. The correlation of deputies elected in single-mandate constituencies and on federal slates of voters associations was changed from 300:150 to 225:225. Furthermore, in contrast to the president's draft, Duma members decided to retain the candidate's right to contest a constituency and to run on a corresponding ticket at the same time. Boris Yeltsin then soon sent a letter drawing attention to the violation of the procedure of adopting the bill: His draft in "pure" form was not even put to a vote. This will apparently be done today: Otherwise, according to Vladimir Isakov,

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chairman of the Duma legislation committee, the case could end up in the Constitutional Court. The presidential draft will be rejected and then the draft will be put to a vote in the shape it was prepared by the legislation committee. According to committee members, the presidential draft has been 99 percent retained, yet the 1 percent that has been changed is all that matters.

The main struggles between the Duma and the president will unfold around the 300:150 and 225:225 correlation. The correlation proposed by the president is also more beneficial to Federation Council members: Many senators will decide to run for the Duma predominantly as "single-mandate" candidates. More fuel is poured on the fire by the draft law "On Procedures for Forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly" moved by Mikhail Mityukov, vice speaker of the lower house, whereby senators are not elected at all: The chairman of a representative body of a Federation subject and the head of an executive body of a Federation subject automatically become senators. True, in the course of a Duma legislation committee session none of its members spoke in favor of the Mityukov draft. Vladimir Isakov, in a conversation with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, said that "it proclaims a purely nomenklatura-style principle of forming the Federation Council, when the upper house will be constituted by people not elected by anybody, many of whom are appointed by the president of Russia." Understandably, the mere discussion of this draft law will not increase the senators' love for or patience with members of the lower parliament house.

Therefore the fate of the election bills will not be easy. Chances are that a "war of nerves" is in store. Whose nerves will be the first to snap? With an increasing time pressure, the law can be ready for the Duma elections only if it is adopted without delay. Otherwise it will be extremely awkward for the president before the democratic West to hold fresh elections under his edict: What with a living parliament. In principle it is all the same to the deputies whether to contest elections according to an edict which does not suit them, or according to a law which does not suit them either. Yet they will be hard put to explain to their constituents the fruitfulness of their work.

In the event of a presidential veto, in all probability, it will be impossible to overturn it: The senators are interested in the 300:150 correlation. Moreover, it will even be difficult to overcome the Federation Council's objection by a two-thirds vote in the State Duma: There are 250 "single-seat" deputes among the Duma members.

It can be supposed that the president will give way but will demand an equitable concession in exchange. Thus, in the bill "On Elections for President of the Russian Federation," which was also approved on first reading, the most controversial is the question about the number of signatures that must be raised for a presidential candidate to be registered. The presidential draft proposes 2 million signatures, but then a presidential representative announced his agreement to 1.5 million. Yet the amendments lowered this number to 250,000. The legislation committee, having failed to reach any decision, recommends that this issue be put to a preferential vote. Many deputies believe that 1 million is the optimal number of signatures: This approximates 1 percent of the overall number of voters (it is also 1 percent that "single-mandate" candidates raise in their constituencies); other numbers are difficult to substantiate. Possibly, the increase in the number of signatures for registering presidential candidates will become a subject of bargaining—in exchange for modifying the correlation from 300:150 to 225:225.

Duma Passes Draft Law on Elections in Second Reading

LD1503180495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—With 240 votes for, 66 against and 8 abstentions, the State Duma passed a draft law on the elections to itself. The document still has to be passed in the third reading after its stylistic and legal correction.

The draft law preserves the current fifty-fifty division of deputies elected from single-mandate constituencies and by party rolls. The presidential proposal to change the ratio to respectively 2 to 1 was rejected.

The document entitled parliamentary candidates to be simultaneously nominated both in single-mandate constituencies and by party rolls.

The deputies also rejected a presidential proposal to relieve parties which canvassed less than 5 percent of votes at the last parliamentary elections and nevertheless passed to the State Duma from canvassing 200,000 signatures required for election blocs. The leader of the parliamentary faction of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, was especially tenacious in demanding the privilege be preserved.

The State Duma agreed to leave the lines "Against all the candidates" and "Against all rolls" from ballot papers, thus removing another possibility to recognize the elections as invalid (provided more ballots are cast against all the candidates than in favor of one of them—IF note).

The State Duma did not support the proposal by the chairman of the parliamentary commission for CIS affairs, Konstantin Zatulin, to create a united single-mandate constituency in former Soviet republics.

Shakhray: Duma Decision on Electoral Law Not Final

LD1503203895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Mar 15 (Interfax)—Russian Vice Premier, Unity and Accord Party leader

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Sergey Shakhray believes that the State Duma's decision to maintain an equal ratio of house members elected from single-mandate constituencies and on party tickets is not final.

The State Duma on Wednesday supported that proposal in a bill "On Elections of Members of the State Duma and of the Federal Assembly" and rejected President Yeltsin's idea to the effect that majoritarian constituencies must present 300 deputies and election associations, 150.

Shakhray noted that in the Council of the Federation, which is to approve the law, many support the idea that deputies ought to be elected only from single-mandate constituencies.

"A multi-party system and the State Duma and society acquiring an appropriate structure will take place after two or three parliamentary terms," Shakhray said.

He believes that the State Duma will vote for equal representation, the Federation Council for abolishing elections on party tickets and that eventually a presidential proposal will prove an acceptable compromise.

Duma Passes Law on State Support for Small Businesses

LD1503171595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—The State Duma (lower house of Russian parliament) has passed a law "On the State Support of Small Businesses". The law was carried by 242 deputies (the minimum required majority is 226 votes), four opposed it and three abstained. The law has been submitted to the Council of the Federation.

The document says that the government will support small businesses in a number of areas. For instance, small businesses will find it much easier to have themselves registered and to obtain licences, as well as to have their products certified. Support will be given to small businesses in their foreign economic activity. Favorable terms will be established for their access to financial, material technological and information resources, research and development and new technologies.

No state support will be given to small businesses if more than a quarter of their charter capital belongs to one or several juridical persons who are not small business entities.

The law says that small businesses are those which operate in industries, construction and on transport and have a work force of no more than 100. In agriculture and the scientific and technological sphere this limit is set at 60 employees, in wholesale trade, at 50, in retail trade and services, at 30, and in other industries and areas of activity, at 50 people.

Kovalev Vote Seen Rebounding on Proponents

MM1403144795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Thirst for Political Revenge Has Led Deputies Into Trap"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that Duma Speaker I. Rybkin's hopes of leading the chamber of parliament entrusted to his charge to the next elections without serious damage to his reputation threaten to come crashing down. Moreover, at a time when the set aim was really very close. The Duma, which has behaved itself fairly decently in the last year and two months, quite unexpectedly erupted 10 March, resurrecting observers' memories of the worst scenes of sessions of the Union and Russian Supreme Soviets and the corresponding congresses. The consequences of the decisions adopted at the 10 March session could, it seems, quite easily lead the Duma into the state in which its predecessors spent the last months of their activity.

S. Kovalev was easily relieved of his post as Russian Federation Human Rights Commissioner. (He obtained this post in January 1994 as a result of the agreement, concluded between Duma factions, on the priority allocation of senior Duma positions. Previously, in September 1993, Kovalev had been appointed chairman of the Human Rights Commission Under the Russian President by edict of the head of state. He still holds this post to this day.)

It is hard to get rid of the impression that in the heat of the hunt the opponents of "Russia's Choice" failed to notice that they had driven themselves into a trap. Besides the powerful political reaction to the news of Kovalev's dismissal, this decision essentially destroyed the foundation on which the Duma's relatively stable work had been based. We are talking about the agreement, concluded in January last year, under which senior Duma posts were allocated among factions—from committee chairmen and their deputies to deputy speakers. Were it not for this document the Duma would possibly now be engaged not in lawmaking but in a struggle for senior posts. That is, it would have been practically incapacitated. Now, following Kovalev's dismissal, all the preconditions for ending up in precisely this state are present in the lower chamber of parliament.

It is an entirely realistic possibility that "Russia's Choice," deeming its rights to have been infringed, could demand a review of last year's January agreement. It could receive support in this from "Yabloko" and independent deputies. The leaders of "Russia's Choice" are already considering options for protest actions, even including a boycott of plenary sessions. Without any doubt a keen struggle to fill the vacant post of human rights commissioner will break out. All this will doubtless affect the Duma's legislative activity. Most likely it will simply paralyze this activity.

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Had the furor broken out at the end of spring/beginning of summer, it would just have been a question of the political reputations of factions and deputies, because by then the Duma will already be engaged in a clear [chistyy] election campaign. But the whole paradox, and at the same time danger, of the current situation is that the furor broke out just before the 15 March plenary session at which consideration of the second reading of the package of election laws is due to begin. Actually, by adopting this package the deputies could consider their mission accomplished and devote themselves fully to the election struggle. But the hotheadedness and hastiness shown by the opponents of "Russia's Choice" last Friday have seriously jeopardized the package's adoption. We are, after all, talking about constitutional laws, and just one boycott by the "Russia's Choice" faction could quite easily block their passage. If squabbling over senior Duma posts is added to a boycott, the whole business could be considered completely hopeless. Thus, the Duma members' decision to dismiss Kovalev from his post has sharply increased the likelihood that the next elections in Russia will be regulated not by laws passed by parliament but by presidential edicts.

Meanwhile the results of the elections held in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan show quite clearly that, if the legislative acts regulating the holding of elections at a federal level are sufficiently strict (including, for instance, the requirement that 51 percent of voters participate in voting), future parliamentary elections have every chance of being declared invalid on an entirely legal basis. Which, in turn, could entail the deferment (also on entirely legal grounds) of the presidential election. Essentially, the parliamentarians who voted for Kovalev's dismissal have played into the hands of those politicians who advocate the postponement of parliamentary and presidential elections. And, it must be acknowledged, they did so effectively.

Had the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction instigated Kovalev's dismissal, the possibility of a secret plot in the heart of the executive branch could have been contemplated. But the initiative was S. Baburin's, who is not noted for his contacts with the executive branch. He was supported primarily by ardent supporters of early parliamentary and presidential elections—the communists. Which makes it possible to agree with Ye. Gaydar, who does not believe in the theory of plots in Russia. Most likely the point is that most Russian politicians are simply incapable of calculating the consequences of their actions even one year ahead.

Duma Refuses To Reconsider Kovalev Dismissal

LD1503164395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 15 (INTERFAX)—The State Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament) on Wednesday defeated a motion to reconsider last Friday's [10 March] resolution to sack Sergey Kovalev as human rights commissioner.

The motion came from Nikolay Stolyarov (New Regional Policy Group) who called for a renewed vote after a group of 8 deputies announced being unaware of the substance of the question they were supposed to approve or reject.

But the motion was rejected after a vote of 146 for, 76 against and 3 abstentions.

Kovalev's appointment as human rights commissioner followed a package deal that different parliamentary factions struck in January 1994.

Ilyukhin Suggests Forming Commission To Draft Constitution

LD1503123695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Chairman of the Duma Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin (Communist) suggested Wednesday [15 March] forming a commission to draft a new Russian constitution. His initiative did not win the necessary support in the Duma (lower house of Russian parliament): 178 deputies voted for it, the necessary quorum being 226.

Ilyukhin explained his proposal by the fact that the constitution approved on December 12, 1993 through "a legally invalid referendum crudely violates the generally recognized principle of separation of powers."

The parliamentarian believes that today lawmaking in Russia is actually in the hands of the executive branch of power in the form of presidents and the heads of administrations of federation members represented in the Federation Council (upper house). He stressed that the recent elections to the legislative bodies of Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Dagestan and several other territories confirmed the dominating role of executive power. Ilyukhin thinks that such a situation cannot be tolerated because it crudely distorts the fundamental principles of government, popular power and democracy.

Duma Rejects LDPR Plan To Ban Registering New Groups

LD1503130195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—The Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) has turned down the suggestion of the Liberal Democratic [Party of Russia, LDPR] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to impose an embargo till the end of the year on the registration of new parliamentary groups.

A total of 159 deputies supported his proposal, the necessary quorum being 226.

At a Wednesday session of the Duma, Zhirinovskiy sharply criticized the official registration of the new

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parliamentary group Stability Tuesday. Two deputies defected from the Liberal Democratic faction to the new group.

Zhirinovskiy claimed that "the process of bribing deputies continues from behind the Kremlin walls". He shamed his colleagues willing to join Stability and urged them to surrender their mandates.

Yevgeniy Buchenkov (Agrarian) who submitted his application to Solidarity on March 6 disavowed his decision Wednesday without giving any reasons. Thus there are now 35 deputies in Stability which is the minimum for the official registration of a parliamentary group.

Baburin in N. Ossetia To Confer With Ethnic Russians

LD1503163395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz, Mar 15 (INTERFAX)—State Duma (lower house of parliament) Deputy Sergey Baburin believes that the Chechen crisis would not have broken out if the Ossetian-Ingush conflict in autumn 1992 had been properly analyzed from the political and legal points of view.

He told INTERFAX in Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) that the former Russian parliament was close to giving a political and legal assessment of the Ossetian-Ingush clashes and that the State Duma was still to do this job.

He announced that he had arrived in the North Caucasus to get acquainted with the situation and with the position of ethnic Russians. He said that on Wednesday he met with head of the Provisional State Committee for Dealing with the Consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict Vladimir Lozov.

He is also taking part in the election campaign of North Ossetia's Deputy Interior Minister Teimuraz Batagov who is running for the post of mayor of Vladikavkaz. Batagov was Baburin's proxy during elections to the Russian parliament.

On the same day Baburin and other deputies flew out to Mozdok (on the Chechen border).

Regional Policy Recommendations

MM1503131295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 95 First Edition

[Text of "Recommendations of Parliamentary Hearings Into the Concept for a New Regional Policy," dated February 1995: "The Balance of Interests of the Center and the Regions"—from the "Zemstvo" section, p 4]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most important task at the contemporary phase of reforming Russian society is to overcome the crisis of unitarism and create a modern federal state. The Russian Federation president's Message to the Federal Assembly focused on this point. The legislative activity of the deputies of the Russian parliament is geared toward achieving this task. It is the focus of the aspirations of the Russian Federation's components.

A search is underway for a form of state structure which harmonizes the regions' natural aspiration for greater autonomy with the consolidation of Russia's unity and integrity.

The Russian Federation Constitution and the Treaty on Social Accord laid down the basic principles for achieving this task. At the same time, further coordinated work on the elaboration of state regional policy and its legislative backup is essential.

In connection with this, participants in the parliamentary hearings put forward the following recommendations:

1. Federal organs of state power in conjunction with the legislative (representative) and other organs of power of the Russian Federation's components are to harmonize their conceptual drafts in the sphere of state regional policy and determine its basic principles and the principal ways of implementing it. The concept is designed to ensure a balance between the interests of the center and the regions, and on this basis to ensure the stable development of Russian statehood.

2. To set about creating a permanent mechanism to coordinate the activity of all those with the right of legislative initiative with regard to legislative backup for state regional policy. For this purpose regular parliamentary hearings on this agenda are to be instituted, the Russian Federation's components are to be kept constantly informed on the progress of this work, feedback from the regions is to be ensured, and their opinion is to be taken into account. It is expedient to instruct the relevant State Duma committees to harmonize the proposals received at the hearings and inform the Federation's components of their implementation.

Representatives of the Federation's components are to be brought into the elaboration of the corresponding federal laws at all stages of their preparation.

3. The coordination of legislation at various levels is to be instituted as an ongoing practice as an essential condition for effective work toward forming the legislative fundamentals of state regional policy. A detailed analysis of existing legislation in the sphere of federal and national-state organizational development and national and regional policy is to be implemented, removing any existing contradictions and obsolete norms.

4. To start tackling the tasks of separating state property into federal property and the property of the Russian Federation's components and monitoring the implementation of the federal budget from the point of view of the

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interests of the regions and improving interbudgetary relations. The legal backup for these processes should form the basis of state regional policy and be organized by means of coordinated legislative work both at federal level and at the level of the Federation's components.

5. With the aim of achieving a legal basis for the implementation of state regional policy as quickly as possible it is essential to speed up the adoption of federal laws on the general principles governing the organization of the system of the organs of state power of the Federation's components, on the principles governing the demarcation of those areas of jurisdiction and powers belonging to the Russian Federation's organs of state power and those belonging to the organs of state power of the Russian Federation's components, on local self-government, and also a number of laws regulating the formation of federal organs of power and their powers.

Within the framework of ensuring interethnic accord as the most important basis of regional policy it is essential to have a package of laws guaranteeing the legal protection of national minorities, determining the status of national and cultural formations, promoting the development of ethnic cultures and languages, and defending the rights of refugees from zones of interethnic conflict.

Serious attention should be devoted to the activity of interregional associations for economic collaboration and regional interparliamentary associations, and the question of endowing them with corresponding legal status at federal level should be studied.

6. With a view to coordinating work aimed at the legislative support of state regional policy and creating a feedback mechanism it would be advisable to study the question of permanent forms of expert analytical work and cooperation an ongoing basis between the apparatuses of the Federal Assembly and the legislative (representative) organs of power of the Federation's components and the special training of specialists from the regions.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Abkhaz Battalion Captures 48 'Spetsnaz'

LD1503185795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1605 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal troops are preparing for an offensive against the town of Argun: This was admitted by the Russian Government's press service.

In the past 24 hours the Russian Air Force has bombed the Chechens' positions south of Argun. Artillery preparation was carried out by the federal troops' artillery.

According to the CHECHENPRESS agency, several inhabited localities including Vedeno, Shali, and Staryye Atagi were subjected to shelling. Many dwelling houses were destroyed. (?One hundred and) twenty-five civilians were killed, including 78 children. According to CHECHENPRESS, more than 300 people were wounded. In the past 24 hours the Russian troops lost 90 servicemen. Forty- eight Spetsnaz were taken prisoner. The operation was carried out by Shamil Basayev's so-called Abkhaz battalion.

According to CHECHENPRESS, the Russian side is blocking the passage of any humanitarian convoys to the republic's southern areas. In particular, a van with medicines from the international organization Medicins Sans Frontieres has been detained in Makhachkala since the beginning of March.

Artillery Exchanges, Aircraft West of Shali

AU1503193495 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 15 (AFP)—Late Wednesday [15 March], explosions lit up the sky like lightning as heavy exchanges of artillery continued west of Shali.

Russian planes, which had been absent all day from the front southeast of Groznyy, began making passes overhead at about 9:00 p.m. (1800 GMT).

No Need for Federal Troops To Storm Argun

LD1603071995 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0700 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The units of the Russian Interior Ministry and federal troops are unlikely to storm Argun, according to the public relations center of the Russian Interior Ministry as told to the Russian information center. The town defended by Dudayev fighters has almost completely lost its military importance since it has been definitively sealed off by the units of the Interior Ministry and federal troops. They control all the strategically important heights around the town.

INTERFAX reports that relative calm prevails in the western sector of the Chechen conflict.

Three Pacific Marines Killed 'This Week'

LD1603092295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok March 16 TASS—The marines taking part in combat operations in the area of the Chechnya conflict continue to sustain losses. Another three marines from the Combined Marine Regiment of the Pacific Fleet were killed in action this week.

This happened south of Groznyy, when a marine assault battalion jointly with Interior Ministry troops tried to

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dislodge Dudayev supporters from their reinforced positions. Dudayev's men offered a fierce resistance. Several dozens of them were killed, and they lost a lot of military hardware and weapons.

The marines acted resolutely, fulfilled their mission and got entrenched on a new line. However, the regiment again sustained losses. The Pacific Marines have lost a total of 27 men since the beginning of the conflict.

'First Nighttime Air Strikes' in Shali

AU1603082095 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 16 (AFP)—Russian planes overnight bombed the road leading from the west into this town south of Groznyy in what residents said was the first nighttime air strikes here.

"We had always gone to sleep knowing we would at least be safe from planes" during the night, said Musa Damayev, one of the residents who said that they heard the bombing at about 0230 Thursday (2330 GMT Wednesday).

Chechen separatists driven out of Groznyy by the Russian offensive now regard this town as their capital. The Russians have been pressing southward into separatist controlled territory since completing their blockade of Groznyy in late February.

Russian and Chechen forces exchanged heavy artillery fire all day Wednesday and into Thursday morning near this roadway.

Heavy artillery shelling closed that road on Wednesday. A large crater left by a bomb overnight cut the road leading into the town from the west, less than a kilometer from a psychiatric hospital on the edge of town.

Local Chechen separatist authorities on Wednesday had pledged to evacuate the patients "today or tomorrow."

Shells landed within a few metres of the hospital overnight, ripping down power lines across the street and putting fresh craters on the roadway, Shali residents said.

The hospital is called "hell's mental hospital" because of the severity of wartime conditions there.

About twenty severely disabled psychiatric patients live there without medication, in a building with no heating, gas, electricity, running water. Many of them do not understand that there is a war on.

In the last few days they have been visited on alternate days by a nurse, and regularly by volunteer cooks, but they are left entirely alone at night.

MVD Aide 'Optimistic' on Peace Talks

MM1603101895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 95 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Klimov on interview with Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the MVD Public Relations Center: "Events in Chechnya: Peace on the Threshold. Information From Chechnya Has Finally Stopped Resembling a Combat Report"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are many reasons for this [reference to headline]. One of them is the talks that the command of the Combined Group of Federal Forces held with A. Maskhadov, chief of staff of Dudayev's formations. The mass media have carried very few reports on these talks and they have not always been conscientious.

We have an opportunity to discuss them objectively. Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Public Relations Center, has taken part in all the meetings. Let us give him the floor.

[Vorozhtsov] What happened in Chechnya during the week of the talks represented a real opportunity toward peace. The idea of the talks did not arise by chance. It was based on the principle of separating the individual issues and resolving the military issues separately from the political issues. We wanted to find a way to reach accord between military leaders.

The initiative for the talks came from the Chechen side. Aslan Maskhadov had appealed to us repeatedly. The Russian command accommodated him.

What was taken as a basis? A historical analysis was conducted as to how similar talks have been conducted in the Caucasus. All the peace initiatives submitted during the conflict were analyzed.

Our position recognized the realities. Since the talks were being conducted by military men, the military situation was assessed first of all. What is more, the talks were based on a universal desire for peace and on consideration of the Russian people's positions and the Chechen mentality.

Russian soldiers are dying in battle. Their leaders Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov and Anatoliy Kvashnin want to stop the bloodshed more than anyone. Each of them is personally accountable to the friends and relatives of the dead and wounded.

What did we suggest? That combat operations be suspended immediately. That all prisoners on both sides be exchanged on the principle of everyone on our side for everyone on their side. In southern Groznyy there were a large number of Chechen guerrillas' bodies. The Chechen side asked for permission to take them away and bury them in accordance with their customs, for which the Russian side gave the go-ahead and provided the requisite conditions.

We also suggested that heavy and collective weapons be surrendered, while the Chechens would keep their small arms. We proposed that representatives of Dudayev's guerrillas disperse to their permanent places of residence. And that self-defense detachments be set up prior to the formation of effective organs of power in the population

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centers. If they renounce armed resistance Russian troops will not enter these population centers. Local organs of power would be organized there. The building of the edifice of peace would start with every settlement and every village. Groznyy would be declared a demilitarized zone, only federal and local police forces would remain there. Those were the Russian side's terms.

The talks took place in three stages. They were held in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya at Slepsovskoye Airport, on the Chechen-Ingush border.

The head of the local administration did a great deal to organize them. The command of the Combined Group of Federal Forces arrived by helicopter. The leaders of Dudayev's formations traveled by a special route cleared by the internal troops: A number of posts were removed and armored personnel carriers and concrete slabs cleared for the duration of their passage.

The leaders of the Russian command flew in with virtually no guards (Col. Gen. Kulikov had only eight internal troop spetsnaz men with him). Dudayev's representatives brought 60-80 armed men apiece.

The talks were held in a small room in the airport building which had previously housed the police duty unit. They lasted from about 1000 hours until 1400-1500 hours. Col. Gen. Kulikov and Kvashnin were involved on the Russian side along with representatives of the General Staff. The opposing side was represented by Aslan Maskhadov. Incidentally, my personal impression was of an intelligent, determined man, a skilled military man. He understands the full reality of the problems facing his people, but it is not only up to him to resolve them. Periodically during the talks leaders of the armed formations were invited in. In particular Shamil Basayev.

The talks were difficult and involved tremendous disputes. At the very outset we asked Maskhadov whether he had met with Dudayev and whether he had the appropriate authority. Yes, he said, he had met with Dudayev and he had the authority.

It was hard to make any objection to our proposals. Incidentally, I briefed Sergey Kovalev on them in Mozdok and asked him what view he takes of the initiatives made by the commander of the Internal Troops. Kovalev was forced to admit that he subscribes to these peacemaking proposals.

It was agreed during the meeting to establish a truce for the duration of the talks. However, the Chechens broke the truce throughout the week.

The population's interest in the talks was tremendous. When Maskhadov went back, residents turned out in literally every village—sometimes by the thousand—and asked what had been agreed.

Dudayev's men were due to give their answer by Sunday. But on Saturday 17 February marine subunits were attacked with artillery support. And the nature of the combat operations indicated that this violation of the truce was not spontaneous but planned. This was to all intents and purposes the opposing side's response to the Russian proposals.

Following this violation the command of the Combined Grouping adopted two decisions. The first was to draft an appeal to the population of the Chechen Republic, which inter alia enumerated the Russian side's proposals. We asked the mass media to carry this appeal in full, which regrettably they did not do. We also said that as soon as we received a response to our proposals we would continue the talks. No response has so far been forthcoming.

Second— the command changed tactics. Since the matter was not being resolved at high level, talks began in Chechen villages and hamlets.

The appeal was duplicated and circulated in virtually all Chechnya's population centers. People who studied it said: This is what we need. Representatives of population centers are constantly coming to see the leadership of the Combined Command now. They ask: Will the command guarantee their proposals?—we are prepared to back them.

In the villages and hamlets everyone knows one another. They go to the parents of the guys fighting for Dudayev. And they say: Why does your son want to destroy my home? If he wants to fight, let him fight in the woods, let him fight in the mountains, in the fields. But don't let him fight in the village. Some villages are not admitting representatives of the armed formations. Self-defense detachments have been set up, with which we are cooperating. At certain checkpoints we are conducting joint alert duty. When that is the case, there are no problems, no rumors.

Moreover, let me say that our main problem now is rumor. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, for instance, despite our requests, is still publishing "tittle-tattle from the Shali bazaar."

Dudayev's men call one Russian television channel "our TV station." It too is spreading these kind of rumors. We have to constantly refute them.

These are rumors of mass murders, looting, and robberies. There are many rumors about the successes achieved by Dudayev's guerrillas. Before I left guys came up from Shali and said: There are rumors flying around there that the war memorial in Groznyy has been blown up. But we had returned from Groznyy on that day and had seen this monument intact.

So, there is a war of rumor. Therefore information is now virtually the most important thing in Chechnya now. If there is truthful information, a normal peace process will start.

During the talks we asked: Why are we fighting in cities where innocent people are dying? Let us leave the cities. The answer was as follows: If we leave, you will immediately annihilate us.

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A second point. People say that if we stop fighting now, there will be the question of why we began the fighting, what is the point of everything that has happened, and why all the casualties? The mothers and wives whose sons and husbands have died are calling politicians to account. Dudayev's military leaders are also faced with this dilemma.

But what is done, is done. It is easy to implement a peace process in Moscow offices; it is far harder there among the troops. A week of talks has nonetheless gotten the peace process moving. [Vorozhtsov ends]

Vladimir Vorozhtsov ended his interview on an optimistic note. Two seemingly insignificant things persuade us that the optimism and hope of peace, in spite of everything, are logical.

One leader of Dudayev's formations flew into a Chechen hamlet by helicopter. The helicopter landed near the mosque. People immediately gathered and manhandled the helicopter out of the away....

Aslan Maskhadov, like most of Dudayev's military leaders, is a former Soviet Army officer; he commanded an artillery regiment. At the beginning of the talks he suddenly saw his former commander among the Russian delegation members. Both men were inexpressibly glad to see one another and embraced heartily. Maskhadov invited his commander to his home. And he went.

There you have it. We were not and never will be enemies no matter how much some people would like that. The same blood flows in our veins—Russian blood.

Army Said To Capture Bridge Over Argun

AU1603091495 Paris AFP in English 0855 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By Peter Graff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 16 (AFP)—Russian forces captured the bridge over the Argun River on the roadway leading into Shali, which Chechen separatists now regard as their capital.

A Chechen fighter driving a tank that returned from the front line on Thursday morning said that Russians had taken the bridge by late Wednesday.

Russian planes bombed the road overnight, and both sides exchanged massive artillery bombardments until early morning.

By dawn, the front line was quiet, and remained so throughout the morning.

At least 10 Chechen wounded were brought to hospital in Shali during the course of Wednesday, and many more were thought to have died on the field or been brought to other hospitals.

The bombardments also claimed civilian lives in the front-line villages of Belgatoi and Novy Atagi.

Russian and Chechen troops have fought heavily over the control of this bridge since Monday.

Russians have been pressing into rebel-controlled territory in southern Chechnya since completing their encirclement of Groznyy in late February.

The southeast region of Chechnya is the prime base of support for Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Until now Russian troops had been halted in their advance behind the Argun River.

The river flows north out of the Caucasus mountains, passes eight kilometers (five miles) west of Shali and curves eastward at the devastated town of Argun, where rebels have held the Russians on the opposite bank since the first weeks of war in December.

Federal Troops Prepare New Offensive

LD1603114695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia March 16 TASS—While federal troops in Chechnya are getting ready for a new offensive, separatists do not abandon attempts to retake territories south of the village of Chechen-Aul, a spokesman for Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS today.

Colonel Oleg Mikhailov of the ministry's press centre in Mozdok said that "leaders of illegal armed formations take urgent steps to strengthen their positions in the eastern zone of resistance (in Chechnya)". Separatists' units have been reiforced by insructors called back from Chechen military training centres, he said.

According to the officer, large groups of militants backed by artillery fire more than once for the past 24 hours have tried to regain control over the road connecting the settlements of Shali and Goity. Separatists shelled by federal artillery suffered heavy losses and failed to break through to help their units engaged in combat actions south of Chechen Aul.

Chechens Say Russians Advancing on Shali

AU1603120895 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By Peter Graff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, 16 March (AFP)—Russian ground troops advanced Thursday on the Chechen rebel headquarters of Shali behind a deadly curtain of shelling and aerial bombing.

Chechen guerrillas lost control of a key natural defense point outside Shali during heavy fighting overnight when Russian ground troops seized a bridge over the Argun River, Chechen fighters said Thursday.

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Chechen separatists regard Shali as their capital, and the strong point of their resistance to Russian rule, since Chechnya's capital, Groznyy, was captured by the Russians in mid-February.

The open and almost totally flat ground between the bridge and Shali is ideally suited to the Russians' fast-moving armoured vehicles and air power, but hard for the Chechens who rely largely on guerrilla tactics.

Chechen fighters said the Russians had placed eight tanks on the west bank of the bridge, and had positioned snipers overlooking it, but had not yet crossed the river.

Russian planes bombed the road overnight, and both sides exchanged massive artillery bombardments until early morning, lighting up the night sky with the flash of explosions.

By dawn, the frontline was quiet, and remained so throughout the morning.

At least 10 Chechen wounded were brought to hospital in Shali during the course of Wednesday, but many more were thought to have died on the field or been brought to other hospitals.

The bombardments claimed civilian lives in the front-line villages of Belgatoi and Novy Atagi, near the bridge, where fighting broke out Monday.

Residents in Shali said it was the first time they had been bombed by planes at night, although the town has been regularly hammered, including an air raid on a central market place January 3 when well over 100 civilians perished.

"We had always gone to sleep knowing we would at least be safe from planes" during the night, said Musa Damayev, one of the residents who said that they heard the bombing at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday (2330 GMT Wednesday).

The artillery shelling along the road between the bridge and Shali smashed into the tarmac and ripped up power lines opposite a mental asylum where about 20 patients live almost untended in horrific conditions, Shali residents said.

A bomb dropped by one of the Russian planes overnight exploded on the road about a kilometre from the desolate institution, known locally as ' hell's mental hospital."

Local Chechen authorities had pledged Wednesday morning to evacuate the asylum, but it was not clear whether they would be able to do so.

Russian tanks, artillery, troops and air power have been battling Chechens loyal to separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev for more than three months. Dudayev declared Chechnya independent from the Russian Federation in 1991.

Russian troops are now trying to push the separatists out of Argun, Shali and Gudermes in the east of Chechnya, and Achkhoi Martan and a handful of villages in the west.

Russian advances in the last few days have all but cut the republic in two, dividing the pro-Dudayev forces.

The final hold-out for the separatists will be in the Caucasus mountains in southern Chechnya, where the last snows are expected to melt by the end of April, making it easier for guerrillas to operate there.

Economic Issues

Antimonopoly Committee Seen Waging Losing Battle

MK1503120095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman under the "Control" rubric: "Leonid Bochin Declares War on Sectoral Monopolists. Viktor Chernomyrdin Pledges His Support"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yet another batch of Russian Federation presidential economic edicts has caused a marked anxiety among ministerial executives. For example, the Agricultural Ministry collegium session that opened yesterday has chiefs of the agro-industrial complex inventing ways of survival in conditions of the transition from Central Bank endless credit emissions to rigid budget financing. The State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy (SCAP) is also worried over the enhanced status in the light of the presidential edict on natural monopolies.

It is these issues that Leonid Bochin, in charge of the antimonopoly committee, raised before his subordinates. A formidable task, if you think about the political weight the sectoral lobbyists pull. The natural monopolists from the fuel and energy complex, the rail transport system, and the Communications Ministry are hard to tame. The antimonopoly committee could not "rein in" transport tariffs and electricity prices during the past three years of reform. According to Mr. Bochin, the number of suits filed in 1994 on the basis of violations of antimonopoly laws grew by 33 percent. Also, private commercial structures are creating their own monopolies by taking over regional markets. Combating private monopolists, Mr. Bochin observed, is much more difficult than state monopolists. The monopolization of regional markets is closely linked with local authorities' agricultural activity, especially in the holding of investment auctions and competitive tenders for the development of local natural resources. Local administrations select commercial structures using the mechanism of licensing.

Leonid Bochin promised that effective mechanisms will be put in place in 1995 to combat both "natural" and "local" monopolists. So far it remains unclear, however, which control functions the SCAP is going to be granted

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in addition to keeping records of violations of laws. In Mr. Bochin's words, the head of government has pledged his support in this matter.

Foreign Trade Ministry Losing Viability in New Situation

MK1503130095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Vadim Bardin: "The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry [FERM] Replaces a Search for Identity With a Cadre Reshuffle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 February KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about a thinning out in the number of deputy foreign economic relations ministers. The subject continued 11 March when Vice Premier Oleg Davydov, behind closed doors, held an emergency collegium session entirely devoted to cadre matters. The result: Replacements were found for the disgraced deputy ministers, and they affected also the "mid-level command structure." Although cadre reshuffles are the stuff of civil servants' life, lying behind them in this case is a peculiar reaction by the FERM to changes in the system of foreign economic activity regulation in 1995, and this is no longer an internal ministerial affair.

The cadre results of the past year in the FERM clearly disagree with upbeat statistics. Otherwise it is impossible to explain the large-scale shakeups both at the level of deputy ministers and chiefs of main administrations. The 11 March collegium session, whose atmosphere was far from complacent, found replacements for Nikolay Lisovskiy and Andrey Dogayev, who "dropped out of the game." KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about the reasons for the departure of these two deputies of Oleg Davydov 18 February. It can only be added that Dogayev's resignation was also urged by the presidential staff's oversight and audit administration commission which inspected the implementation of Russia's obligations under intergovernment agreements, which was Dogayev's responsibility. Now his place will be occupied by Vladimir Razdukhov, who was head of the ministry's Main Economic Administration.

A much more interesting replacement has been found for Nikolay Lisovskiy. Debt, hard currency, and credit matters will now be managed by Mikhail Sarafanov, who today (the appointment has not as yet been made officially) heads the All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute of Market Studies (VNIKI). This decision at first glance looks like a recurrent advent of laboratory chiefs into government offices. But this analogy is superficial. Back in 1992, when working in VNIKI, Sarafanov, at the head of a ministerial group created by Petr Aven, conducted negotiations with the IMF on appraising Russia's balance of payments, and then worked in the FERM as deputy administration chief. So Sarafanov is not a new man either in the ministry or in negotiating. Still, there is an unusual turn in his career ascent. VNIKI is completing its corporatization process, and it seems that Sarafanov has preferred a ministerial career to a commercial path—something that does not often happen today. Andrey Dogayev took a reverse track. He has been considered Oleg Davydov's favorite, with good reason: He is being tipped for head of the All-Russian association Mashinimport.

There are also some deep-going reasons behind cadre vibrations in the FERM. In fact, the FERM is to prove its viability in the new conditions, when there will be neither special exporters nor former delivery volumes on account of "state needs." A priority here could be active support for Russian exporters, including lobbying for their insurance and crediting, which, incidentally, would fully correspond to the latest presidential address to the Federal Assembly. So far, however, things have not gone beyond the fuss around a corresponding federal program which is still in the definition stage. So far, behind the cadre reshuffles one cannot discern any breakthroughs in addressing basically new tasks.

Wage Arrears Exceed R5.6 Trillion as of 1 Mar

LD1503183895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Wage arrears in Russia exceeded 5.6 trillion roubles [R] as of March 1, 1995, according to the Russian State Statistics Committee.

Of that sum, 1,848 billion roubles, or 33 per cent, have been overdue for more than two months. The amount of overdue payments increased by 1.9 per cent since February when it was 5,534 billion roubles.

The total number of enterprises with wage arrears reached 38,000 as of March 1, 1995, or a three per cent increase since February. Twenty one thousand of them are in agriculture.

The largest wage arrears are in the Tyumen and Kemerovo regions with 491 and 272 billion roubles respectively.

Chernomyrdin Announces New Aviation Company, Views TU-204

LD1503194395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced today that a new financial and industrial company had been created "to help Russia overcome difficulties in the development of its aviation and aviation industry".

Chernomyrdin made this announcement at Sheremetyevo Airport where he attended a conference of

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Russian aircraft designers convened on the occasion of rolling out a new jet cargo aircraft, the TU-204s.

According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the new company will enable Russia "to avoid the complex situation in which some (old) aircraft have already flown all they could, and there are no other aircraft to replace them".

ITAR-TASS learned that the new company will comprise the Tupolev aviation research and technology complex, the Aeroflot - Russian airlines company, Promstroibank, and some other structures involved in the design, development, manufacture and operation of aircraft.

The TU-204s which was rolled out in Sheremetyevo today had been developed in 1993. It can carry up to 29 tonnes over a distance of up to 7,500 kilometers. The Russian prime minister was also shown around the TU-204, which is the basic airliner. Chernomyrdin said: "This aircraft belongs to the morrow, it is crafted to all the standards with which we shall enter the third millennium".

The aircraft was designed in the Tupolev aviation research and technology complex. It was manufactured by the Ulyanovsk-based AO Aviastar company. The TU-204 will replace the popular TU-154. According to certain sources, the country's top leaders like the airliner so much that two of them have already been purchased for the president's staff.

Incidentally, the head of state was expected to attend today's meeting with the aircraft designers but Boris Yeltsin cancelled his trip to Sheremetyevo at the last moment.

Informed sources in the Kremlin said the Russian president had a busy schedule on Thursday and preparations for the important meetings must have made him make changes to his Wednesday plans.

Daily Average Production Output Up 4 Percent in Feb

LD0903143195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 9 Mar 95

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 9—Russia's daily average production output increased in February by four percent relative to January, BUSINESS-TASS was told today in the Russian state statistics committee.

The increase was 12 percent in the production of construction materials and six percent in the machine-building sector. The February output of the electric power sector was below the January figure.

This statistics was derived from production figures of large and medium-size factories.

Economic Performance in 1994 Summarized

MM0803140895 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Doctor of Economic Sciences Professor Aleksandr Tkach and commentary by Yuriy Savin under the general heading "Disintegration. Review of the Russian National Economy's Development in 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What was the characteristic feature of the socioeconomic situation in the country last year? Above all it was the continuing slump in production. For example, GDP amounted to 630 trillion rubles [R]. This is 15 percent lower than in 1993.

Production

Production is falling. The annual volume of industrial output is valued at R344 trillion. That is 21 percent down on the previous year. Gross agricultural output was R81.6 trillion or 9 percent below the 1993 level.

Agricultural machine building production is falling. Some 28,700 tractors were produced (68 percent less than the 1993 level), grain combine harvester production was down 12,000 units (64 percent), and feed combine harvester production was down by 1,425 units (42 percent). Production of cultivators, tractor-seeders, potato combine harvesters, grain loaders, and milking machines was down to just 7-17 percent of the 1993 level. The production of tractor- mowers and mineral fertilizer spreaders was around one-half of the figure a year ago.

The potential for restoring soil fertility is declining all the time. Mineral fertilizer production over the year was 7.508 million tonnes—18 percent down on 1993. In contrast, however, fertilizer exports rose by 17 percent. And whereas in 1990 each hectare of Russian plowland received 83 kg of fertilizer (in terms of 100-percent nutrients), last year that figure was only 16 kg.

The situation in the agro-industrial complex sector engaged in processing agricultural raw materials is difficult. Last year meat production was 3.2 million tonnes (77 percent of the 1993 level), wholemilk production (in terms of milk) was 7.0 million tonnes (83 percent), animal fat production was 491,000 tonnes (67 percent), vegetable oil production was 868,000 tonnes (77 percent), pasta production was 666,000 tonnes (80 percent), flour production was 15.8 million tonnes (87 percent), groat production was 1.3 million tonnes (71 percent), bread and bakery product output was 12.3 million tonnes (82 percent), and granulated sugar production was 2.7 million tonnes (69 percent).

The trends in such an important sphere as paid services to the population are deplorable: The volume of services is valued at R36 trillion—a reduction of 36 percent over the year. The army of the unemployed has significantly exceeded the 5 million mark. This is a staggering increase—29 percent. The number of people with incomes below the subsistence minimum last year passed the 36.2 million mark—that is almost one in four of the country's inhabitants.

According to the assessment, total meat product resources were 8 million tonnes in 1994 (8 percent down on 1993), 6.8 million tonnes of it produced in this country. Let us note that the minimum demand for this

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produce is 8.1 million tonnes although actual consumption in 1993 was 8.8 million tonnes. Dairy production in 1994 amounted to 49.1 million tonnes (6 percent less than 1993), animal fat production was 758,000 tonnes (14 percent less), vegetable oil production was 867,000 tonnes (35 percent less), and sugar production was 5.4 million tonnes (10 percent less than last year).

Investments

The general crisis of investments in the national economy is particularly acute for the agro-industrial complex. Last year the volume of capital investments (from all sources of finance) for the development of the agrarian sector was over R11 trillion. This is one-tenth of total investments in the Russian economy (for comparison's sake, note that in 1991 the agrarians' share amounted to 31 percent, falling to 21 percent in 1992, and 17 percent in 1993).

Two-thirds of the total volume of capital investments in the agrarian sector were channeled into production construction. Livestock premises with a capacity for 299,000 animals were commissioned (46 percent of the 1993 level and 18 percent of the 1991 level), grain and seed storage facilities with a capacity of 1.103 million tonnes at any one time were commissioned (51 percent and 41 percent respectively), and storage facilities for potatoes, vegetables, and fruit with a capacity of 58,700 tonnes were commissioned (32 percent and 12 percent respectively). Some 2,400 km of hard-surfaced intrafarm roads were laid as against 11,600 km in 1993 and 32,4000 km in 1991.

Export-Import

Russia's foreign trade turnover with the countries of the far abroad and near abroad was R248 trillion. Russia had a balance of payments surplus of $12.3 billion in 1994.

What commodities were traded? Fuel and energy products were the leading export item, representing 44.7 percent of the total. Ferrous and nonferrous metals accounted for 20.2 percent, chemical industry output amounted to 7.6 percent, machinery and equipment came to 5.3 percent, and lumber and pulp and paper products accounted for 4.3 percent. In short, Russia is already a raw- materials producing appendage for foreign countries.

In the structure of imports, machinery and equipment accounted for 34 percent of the total volume and foodstuffs and food raw materials accounted for 29.2 percent. What kinds of foodstuffs were imported? Some 387,000 tonnes of freeze-dried meat (455 percent of the 1993 level), 411,000 tonnes of poultry (556 percent), 171,000 tonnes of butter (244 percent), 869,000 tonnes of citrus fruits (504 percent), 98,000 tonnes of tea (177 percent), 1.203 million tonnes of unrefined sugar (72 percent), and 1.083 million tonnes of sugar (75 percent). The import of powdered milk, coffee, fresh apples, medicines, and silk and synthetic textiles has risen two- to three-fold.

Imports through barter deals were dominated by foodstuffs and raw materials for food production at 38.8 percent. These indicators are further convincing proof that essential assistance must be given to this country's agricultural producers.

Inflation

Inflation continued to plague the economy and undermined the population's well-being, especially the underprivileged strata of the population. Last year prices for edible fats rose by 400 percent, prices for bread, bakery products, milk, and dairy products rose by 300-320 percent, prices for eggs and sugar rose by 200-270 percent, and prices for meat, fish, and related products rose by 150-190 percent.

In Russia at the end of December the average price for top-grade wheat flour was R1,513 a kilogram, first- and second-grade flour cost R1,010 a kilogram, and rye-wheat flour cost R740. A kilogram of vegetable oil cost Russians an average of R5,799, sugar cost R2,284 a kilogram, salt cost R503 a kilogram, potatoes cost R1,072 a kilogram, cabbage cost R1,075 a kilogram, onions cost R1,631 a kilogram, beets were R1,289 a kilogram, carrots were R1,386 a kilogram, and apples were R3,330 a kilogram. Milk cost R1,147 a liter and eggs R3,108 for 10. The average statistics conceal sharp differences of 800-1000 percent in the level of prices for bread, animal fat and vegetable oil, and beef among different cities.

The cost of the well-known range of 19 foodstuffs at the end of December 1994 was over R107,000 (calculated by the month). Over the year the cost of this basket of consumer goods rose by a factor of 3.5.

The difference between the rate of price increases for agricultural produce and prices for foodstuffs in the trade system persisted. Last year, for instance, purchase prices for grain rose on average by 150 percent, while prices for groats rose 340 percent, flour rise 490 percent, and prices for bread and bakery products rose 280 percent. Purchase prices for meat, milk, and products derived from them rose 170-230 percent while consumer prices rose 360-590 percent. So who is to blame for the fact that the cost of living is rising? The peasant least of all.

Thus the results of the Russian national economy's performance last year demonstrate that the time has finally come to consider seriously where we are heading and what will become of us? There must be precise guidelines for the development of each sector. There must be a comprehensive program for the development of the Russian national economy and the intellectual potential of the country's academies and higher educational institutions, and the very rich experience of practical workers must be enlisted in work on it. [end of Tkach report]

Economic Department Commentary

The recently published President's Message acknowledges that "high-speed transformations often incur

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costs." The latest statistics for last year, which are published today, show how heavy those "costs" are. And they are continuing to rise this year too.

The sowing campaign is in jeopardy. There is insufficient fuel and fertilizers and a great deal of equipment is not ready. In January gross milk yield fell by 13 percent on all categories of farms and sales of livestock and poultry for slaughter fell by 12 percent. The modest increase in output on private farms was unable to significantly make up for the fall in output (19-20 percent) in the public sector. It is primarily the food industry which has borne the brunt of that: The production of meat for processing fell by 32 percent, sausage production fell 18 percent, wholemilk production fell 24 percent, and animal fat fell 35 percent.

So the statistics have confirmed once more the urgency of the problem of the country's food sufficiency. They also show that the position taken by the agrarian parliamentarians is right: All forms of economic activity on the land need targeted support.

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International Affairs

Kuchma Satisfied With Results of Copenhagen Summit

LD1503120795 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on 15 March held a briefing for Ukrainian and foreign journalists in Kiev. The talk addressed a wide range of problems of our state's internal and foreign policy. In particular, Leonid Kuchma highly assessed the participation of the Ukrainian delegation in the work of the world summit on social development which took place in Copenhagen. In his view, Ukraine was given an opportunity to air its views on pressing international problems and direct attention at those reformist processes that are inherent in the life of our society which require support from the world community. Much attention at the briefing was devoted to the issue of interaction between the legislative and executive branches of power and the present state and the prospects for Ukrainian-Russian relations as well as the forthcoming visit by the head of the Ukrainian state to Japan.

Kuchma: Black Sea Fleet Issue Still To Be Resolved

LD1403193595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 14 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma described his meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Dubinin in Kiev Monday [13 March] as useful and good.

He told Interfax that he and Dubinin had discussed only the Black Sea Fleet issue, which seemed to be the only unresolved problem in the bilateral relations.

Kuchma said that the positions of the two countries were neither identical nor opposite. He explained that certain issues had to be resolved and expressed confidence that they would be resolved.

According to Kuchma, the two men had agreed that the base of the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet would be in Sevastopol. (IF Note: The Russian negotiators want the treaty to say that Sevastopol will be the base of the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet).

Kuchma emphasized that this problem had to be resolved before the visit of his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin to Kiev.

He also said that the agreement on restructuring the Ukrainian debt to Russia had to be signed before March 20. Kuchma emphasized that this was the International Monetary Fund's requirement.

Udovenko on NATO, Ukrainian-Polish Relations

WS1503153095 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15 Mar 95 p 24

[Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udovenko by Piotr Koscinski; place and date not given: "We Understand Poland, Poland Should Understand Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While discussing the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty, we should consider the security of all European states, including Ukraine. Furthermore, we cannot build a European security system without Russia. NATO should reach an agreement with Russia—this would also improve Ukraine's position.

Contrary to expectations, Ukraine's foreign policy did not change substantially after last year's elections. Moreover, President Leonid Kuchma—referred to as "pro-Russian" prior to the elections—turned out to be perhaps an even more difficult partner in negotiations with Russia than his predecessor, Leonid Kravchuk. In the course of talks recently held in Kiev, representatives of Russia and Ukraine finally succeeded in developing the text of a treaty on friendship and cooperation. Several days ago (after RZECZPOSPOLITA had already carried the interview with Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko), Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets spoke of certain disparities.

It is still unknown when (and if) Russia's President Boris Yeltsin will visit Kiev. Anti-Russian feelings, particularly in central and western Ukraine, are gaining in strength. Anti-Yeltsin protests are being prepared, and former President Kravchuk has warned he would "hurl tomatoes at Yeltsin." Russia continues to exert pressure on Kiev, using a very powerful argument—Ukraine's huge oil and gas debt. After Yeltsin's visit to Minsk and the acceleration of integration processes between Russia and Belarus, Kiev can no longer count on its northern neighbor. In this context, Ukraine's fear of becoming stuck in a "buffer zone" between NATO and the Tashkent system are more easily understood. The agreement on collective defense includes both Russia (one of the initiators of the 1992 treaty), and Belarus. Stanislaw Shushkevich, the first independence-oriented head of Belarus paid the price of his office for protesting against joining the accord.

Ukraine's stance on the expansion of NATO has changed rather dramatically over the last few months. Initially, Kiev representatives stressed that every state—including Poland—is entitled to make the sovereign decision on whether to join NATO. Later, however, they firmly rejected a rapid expansion of the alliance. It seems Ukraine's stance is based on completely different premises than that of Russia. Ukraine wants to use the opportunity to discuss whether new members should be admitted to the alliance to obtain effective security guarantees for itself. As an East European state with a population of over 50 million, Ukraine does not want to become a subject of interest for international politics. If

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the West remains reserved, Ukraine's powerful neighbor—Russia—will reap benefits.

[Koscinski] **President Leonid Kuchma and Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov are against a swift expansion of NATO, and thus Poland's quick entry into the North Atlantic Treaty. You also supported that stance. Why?**

[Udovenko] Let us imagine the following situation: NATO members appear on Ukraine's western border, signatories of the Tashkent agreement on collective security are in the east. This way, Ukraine may become a buffer zone of sorts. President Leonid Kuchma warned against a new Berlin Wall, this time on the Ukrainian border. He also stressed repeatedly that the expansion of NATO should be evolutionary.

When discussing the expansion of NATO, we must take into consideration the security of all European states, including Ukraine. Moreover, it is obvious we cannot build a European security system without Russia. During talks with a NATO delegation held in Kiev recently we clearly stated that the alliance should reach an agreement with Russia. The situation in Ukraine would thus become easier. I believe each state—including Poland—has the right to decide on its membership in one bloc or another. No one can have the right to veto such a decision. Just like any other country, however, Poland does not function in a vacuum. We understand Poland's stance, but we would also like Poland to understand ours.

[Koscinski] **How does Ukraine want to guarantee its own security? By approaching NATO, EU, and other European structures, or rather by cooperating with CIS states?**

[Udovenko] The Ukrainian Declaration of Independence, passed in times of the USSR, formulated two postulates: first, that our country be a non-nuclear state in the future; second, that it does not belong to any bloc. We are adhering to the latter, although under the current circumstances it is impossible for a state like Ukraine to retain neutrality in the traditional sense.

I have already spoken of our fears of finding ourselves wedged between two blocs. In this context, I cannot say whether we see our security guaranteed by approaching Europe or by establishing active cooperation with CIS states. Besides, the Tashkent agreement is not a typical security system. It is comparable neither with the former Warsaw Pact, nor with present-day NATO.

Ukraine believes that in order to guarantee its own security it must primarily strengthen its economy and statehood, and take an active part in the European integration processes. We have already entered an agreement on partnership and cooperation with EU, and—like Poland—we have joined "Partnership for Peace."

What I say might not be popular. Yet I do wish to return to the Ukrainian suggestion of several years ago, namely the proposal of establishing a uniform European security system. I believe the idea is worth reconsidering.

[Koscinski]**Some of the Ukrainian groupings are appealing for a referendum be held on the restoration of the USSR. Also some Russian politicians—including Duma deputies—are appealing for full integration of the CIS states and recreating the Soviet Union. What is the stance of Ukrainian authorities on this issue?**

[Udovenko] Ukraine is a sovereign state. The idea of holding a referendum on the restoration of the USSR was firmly rejected by our authorities. Moreover, it violates Ukrainian law. I wish to stress that Ukrainians have already held a referendum. On 1 December 1991, the independence of Ukraine was supported by 91 percent of citizens in a popular vote. There is no going back to old times. We support economic integration of the CIS states, providing it does not impede our sovereignty.

There are political forces in the Ukraine that reminisce about the times of the Soviet Union with nostalgia. There also exist supporters of restoring the USSR in the Russian Duma. We must not forget, however, that the Ukrainian president always stresses that independence is our top priority. The Ukrainian parliament, albeit politically divided, unequivocally advocates our country's independence.

[Koscinski] **A treaty on friendship and cooperation was initialed during Ukrainian-Russian talks held in Kiev recently. What are the achievements of talks held thus far, and what must Ukraine and Russia still work on?**

[Udovenko] The talks were devoted to three major issues. First, preparing the already mentioned treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. This is to be a "major agreement," constituting the basis for bilateral cooperation. We were able to reach an agreement regarding the text of that treaty. The second group of topics was related to economic relations between Ukraine and Russia, including our Russian debt. Russia is crediting gas supplies to Ukraine, and our debt continues to grow. Talks on restructuring the debt and principles for bilateral clearing are under way. Negotiations are constructive and—I wish to stress that in particular—are held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The third group of topics pertains to the Black Sea Fleet. There are two issues here: how the Fleet is to be divided and where it is to be stationed. The signing of an agreement on the principles of dividing the Fleet is expected at a meeting to be held by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. I wish to emphasize that we are going to provide only basic principles, which should allow for an expeditious way of working out the details. I think we will succeed. We have already solved far more difficult problems.

[Koscinski] **Mr. Minister, the volume of trade between our two countries is growing, yet there are no new developments in our political relations. It seems the term "strategic partnership" between Ukraine and Poland does not reflect reality? The inter-presidential consultation**

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committee that had served as a model for other countries has not been operating for many months now.

[Udovenko] I absolutely do not agree that there is not much activity in political relations between our countries. What about the meeting of the presidents of Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus in Budapest? Despite a plethora of commitments, our president came to Krakow to take part in the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Leonid Kuchma was the first foreign guest Lech Walesa hosted. We spoke about fundamental issues pertaining to our relations both in Budapest, and in Krakow. The meeting between Prime Ministers Waldemar Pawlak and Vitaliy Masol held last year can serve as an example of cooperation. Approximately 10 ministers represented each side, there were 12 working groups. I used that form of cooperation as an example at a recent press conference. Ministers accompanying heads of states or governments should not brood idly in corridors.

As far as the inter-presidential committee is concerned, the cessation of its activities was due to technical reasons. Presidential elections were held in our country last year and we needed several months for the presidential administration to take form. Many personnel changes have taken place on the Polish side as well. I hope the committee resumes activities shortly.

In the past, many eminent Polish politicians—among them Lech Walesa—have represented Ukraine's interests in the West. We would now like to ask for support on the issue of our membership in the European Council. (The Council claims that Ukraine cannot become a full-fledged member because of the lack of a new, democratic Ukrainian Constitution—P.K.). I would like to extend an appeal mainly to Deputy Sejm Speaker Aleksander Malachowski for support in forming a pro-Ukrainian lobby. I wish to stress one thing: Ukraine and Poland are not divided by any political problems. On the contrary, I believe cooperation between our two countries is coming along very well.

Marchuk on Ties, Agreements With Moscow

MK1603061095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1, 2

[Interview with Yevhen Marchuk by Vitaliy Portnikov, under the "Negotiations" rubric: "'We Did All We Could.' Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk Comments on Russian-Ukrainian Relations"—place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Portnikov] Yevhen Kirillovich, you have been dealing with Ukrainian-Russian relations for many months, and you are probably well aware of the complexity of preparing for a large-scale treaty and Boris Yeltsin's visit. How promptly can the Ukrainian leadership respond to these problems now? What is to be done so that Russian-Ukrainian relations could be really constructive, rather than having merely a declarative nature—like Russian relations with many former Soviet republics?

[Marchuk] In my opinion, Ukrainian-Russian relations have been brought to a new—qualitatively higher—level. First of all, I would like to emphasize that relations with Russia are considered to be a priority in Ukrainian foreign policy matters (and this has been expressed by the president in concrete verbal forms). Following the declarations, as one can see now, we have started concrete actions. I think that, even if I am not destined to sign any other Ukrainian- Russian treaties in the future, I shall be happy that I have taken part in initialing the large-scale general political treaty and signing, together with Oleg Soskovets, five agreements on economic and border matters. These agreements are maximally concrete in economic terms, especially for Ukraine. For instance, the agreement on the avoidance of double taxation; the agreement on border crossing; the trade and economic agreement for 1995; all protocols and addendums to these agreements covering various aspects; and the agreement on the cooperation of bordering oblasts of Ukraine and Russia, signed in Kharkiv. As to the present state of Ukrainian-Russian relations—especially taking into consideration the forthcoming Yeltsin visit to Ukraine—we did, in fact, all we could; and, I think, before the time of the visit—which is set tentatively at the end of March—we shall have arrive at the concrete results desirable for both sides. I mean the trade and economic agreement. We have also agreed to be as specific as possible in settling the intricate and extremely important problem of the Black Sea Fleet. I suppose that, during Yeltsin's visit, 13 more agreements may be signed here, on different levels. I believe that this visit entails most concrete implications, which is extremely important for Ukraine—since our economy is very significantly integrated into the Russian economy, as regards cooperation, marketing area, and especially energy.

[Portnikov] One of the participants in the negotiations told me that, when you headed the Ukrainian delegation at the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet, you proposed that the Russian side submit its own package of agreements that could define the Russian stance with respect to the Black Sea Fleet issue. The Russian side did not expect this, since until then only Ukrainian proposals had been considered.

[Marchuk] Moreover, in addition to this, we submitted the proposal suggesting coming to an agreement on creating two fleets on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet, and the Russian side accepted it after analysis. We are doomed, in fact, only to cooperate and to coordinate our activities in the Black Sea area. So, let us task our delegations with building some structure—at least microscopic, to start with—based on which the principles for future collaboration could be elaborated. Other problems will arise immediately, and one should always have in mind a number of facilities and services that are indivisible by their nature. Say, there is a single facility for the maintenance of the fleet infrastructure. It can not be divided. Or, let us take the hydrographic service—if it is divided, it will be ruined, and so forth. So, there are some parts that should be retained undivided. Probably

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the decision on them should be made at the very end, while, at present, some forms of either joint financing or joint maintenance should be found.... And one more thing: We have started to pay more attention to the documentary outcome of our negotiations. Previous talks ended in short agreements using general phrases—without going into details or concrete formulations. Now—in addition to the declaration that will be submitted to the presidents—we have started to prepare a set of small agreements, aimed at supporting this process from below, such as on housing construction, on the hydrographic service, and others, which, besides, will not have to be ratified by the parliament.

[Portnikov] At the parliamentary hearings on the Russian- Ukrainian agreements in the Russian State Duma, they spoke about your role in these negotiations. Interestingly, both adept diplomats and Russian servicemen alike, speaking about your tough stance, emphasized at the same time that the talks were rather easy—as regards the atmosphere—and, most importantly, constructive. How did you manage to achieve such a recognition on the part of the Russian delegation, which used to treat its Ukrainian counterparts without great enthusiasm?

[Marchuk] Frankly speaking, there was not any special plan. Possibly, this was due to the realization of what had been accumulated inside me. [as published] Although, Yuriy Dubinin, the head of the Russian delegation, and I used a very simple method: First, preliminary unofficial and thorough expert examination was made of the problems that were to be submitted for the plenary session. Second, we tried to come down from the conceptual level to the concrete level—as much as possible. For instance, both sides made a number of "discoveries," both good and bad, when certain formulations started to be transferred not only onto the paper but also onto the maps. Whether my position is tough or not, is not my ambition—I am limited by the national legislation. For that reason, I had only to specify some things that had not been specified earlier. I simply demonstrated that not only Marchuk but also President Kuchma himself would be unable to do something just in order to please, say, the Russian side, because the national legislation does not allow this.

[Portnikov] In Russia, public opinion very often extrapolates the Chechen events to Crimea. You are one of the Ukrainian politicians who were involved in the development of the situation in Crimea. Despite the fact that the situation is dissimilar and it is difficult to draw any parallels, such questions, perhaps, should also be answered....

[Marchuk] We also have publications of political character, comparing Crimea and Chechnya. I do not wish and I can not make any comparisons. These phenomena are of different origin. Nevertheless—in terms of components that may lead to a conflict—in Crimea there are quite a few such factors capable of developing in a complex and even dramatic way. Maybe even more than in Chechnya—political structures in Crimea are heterogeneous; in addition, there are two military structures—the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy—subordinate to two different authorities. And there is the Crimean Tatar factor, and a number of social and economic problems. In general, Crimea is militarized, and this is one of the main issues for the Ukrainian leadership. I think that Russia will agree, too—Crimea, including Sevastopol, should be demilitarized. I can not say that Crimea is similar to Chechnya in any way, or that something may happen there. The Ukrainian leadership is and will be doing all it can so that there will be no shooting in Crimea—not only in connection with politics, but even in the criminal world. At present, in Crimea there is a special-purpose group from Kiev—200 people—dealing with the investigation of major crimes committed there, the liquidation of gangster groups, and so forth.

[Portnikov] Are you not afraid that your Russian colleagues may accuse Ukraine of blocking joint activities on stemming crime, by refusing to adopt the Russian drafts on the joint protection of borders—as happened just recently at the Almaty meeting?

[Marchuk] I do not know to which extent this is interdependent, because joint protection of borders has little to do with criminality. Once we suppose that the border between Russia and Ukraine will be transparent, as they term it—and we shall never have barbed wire there, or a border in the full sense of this word, equipped in accordance with the old standards—criminals will always have ample possibilities for migration.

[Portnikov] I see that you feel very confident in your stance with respect to Ukrainian-Russian relations. I am interested to know, how would you react if your confidence were confronted with the fact of yet another delay in Yeltsin's visit? Would you have enough energy to start everything from scratch several times?

[Marchuk] There will be enough energy, as well as competence and skills. The most important thing is that, during the talks, I became personally convinced that the participating Russian colleagues were equally interested in the normal finalization of the entire process of negotiations. I am confident that we shall solve these problems. If not, they will be solved by others. They will be solved anyway, but without us.

Vietnamese Interior Minister Signs Crime Agreement

LD1603111995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1850 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as given]—An agreement on cooperation was signed on 15 March during a meeting between the interior ministers of Ukraine and Vietnam, Volodymyr Radchenko and Bui Thien Ngo.

During the news conference Volodymyr Radchenko said that the law enforcement bodies of Ukraine and Vietnam had agreed to jointly combat transnational crime and

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contraband in drugs, counteract fictitious entrepreneurship and bankruptcy, the "laundering" of money earned through crime, as well as exchange information on criminal groups and conduct joint operations.

Military Delegation in Germany To Discuss Cooperation

WS1503131295 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1051 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to the Defense Ministry's press service, Lieutenant General Volodymyr Tkachov, chief of the Air Force Main Agency within the General Staff, started a working visit to Germany at the head of a General Staff delegation. The visit is within the framework of the two Defense Ministries' bilateral cooperation plan.

Talks With Moldovan Delegation Begin in Kiev

WS1503131195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1051 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday, March 14 Ukrainian-Moldovan talks started in Kiev focused on bilateral industrial cooperation. Moldova's Government delegation is led by Minister for Industry Grigore Triboi, on the Ukrainian side the talks involve Minister for Industry Anatoliy Holubchenko and Minister of Engineering MIC [Military-Industrial Complex] and Conversion Viktor Petrov. The parties are reported as intending to sign a package of interdepartmental cooperation agreements on Wednesday, March 15.

National Affairs

President Kuchma Holds News Conference

LD1503223495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 15 Mar 95

[News conference by President Leonid Kuchma with foreign and domestic correspondents in Kiev on 15 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kuchma] Dear ladies and gentlemen. As you know, the United Nations held a world summit in the interests of social development on 6-13 March in Copenhagen. The summit was attended by delegations from 186 countries, including a record number of heads of state and government in the history of international forums—over 130. Ukraine co-chaired the summit. I would like to say that such a gathering of heads of state was previously unknown in history. It was also the most representative forum in the 50 years of the United Nations' existence since 1945. Presentations at the plenary meetings focused on three topics: Poverty, employment, and social integration. Special emphasis was made on the acute nature of poverty problems in the developing countries. Delegates from these countries insisted on increasing international financial aid and prioritizing its application for the benefit of the poorest nations. Delegations from the developed industrial nations tried to restrain this pressure and channel the discussion into other areas. Their presentations stressed the need for more efficient use of all international assistance already given, a closer link between social development and economic transformations, democratization of society, and safeguards for basic human rights and freedoms.

The developing countries's desire to concentrate delegates' attention exclusively on their own problems and achieve specific provisions in the final documents determined their attitude to the countries with transitional economies. They demanded that the final documents minimize reference to countries with transitional economies and their need for international assistance in solving social problems. Joint efforts by the delegations from Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria, and Hungary helped to counter these attempts. The draft declaration on the program of actions preserved most of the provisions concerning countries with transitional economies. Our delegations received constant support from the delegations of the European Union countries and the United States. The high point of the summit was the unanimous approval late at night on 12 March of the declaration on the program of world community actions laying down the foundations of multilateral cooperation in solving social problems facing humanity in the short and long-term.

There was another, traditional, part of the program during our delegation's visit to Denmark: The 14 bilateral meetings with state leaders held in Copenhagen. This time we met the presidents of Finland, the Latvian Republic, Turkey, Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan, the Georgian head of state, the U.S. Vice President, and prime ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Russian Federation, and Moldova. Our minister of foreign affairs held separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Denmark, Iran, and the general secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers. I also had a significant meeting with the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The secretary general spoke highly of Ukraine's contribution to UN activities and its role in resolving a wide range of issues facing the organization. Special praise was given to the Ukrainian military for their part in the UN peacekeeping operation in former Yugoslavia.

Priority was given during the visit to meetings with the leaders of North European countries. This was due to our interest in developing more active political and economic cooperation with this group of countries, on a bilateral and regional basis. President Ulmanis [of Latvia] and I agreed final arrangements for my visit to Latvia in late May this year, during which we will sign an interstate treaty on friendship and cooperation and other bilateral agreements. Other meetings, too, were of specific character. I must say that all parties expressed

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interest in Ukraine and a desire to cooperate with us. Such meetings proved their worth and we will continue them in the future.

This in brief is all I wanted to highlight in the context of our participation at the Copenhagen summit.

[Chernomorskyy, in Russian] (?VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI), Georgiy Chernomorskyy: Leonid Danylovych, (?I would like to ask you about) your visit to Japan, where every ruler who came to power after the fall of [word indistinct] in the 18th century—in the middle of the 18th century—proclaimed an epoch. In 1868, the epoch of [word indistinct] was brought in. So how would you...[pauses] This was an era of enlightenment and we can see now that they have succeeded—what would you like to call your presidency in the long run if you did everything as you wished, and how will your visit to Japan help you put this dream of yours into practice? For example, whom will you meet and what can we expect?

[Kuchma] What can we expect? You see, I myself am not going there to fetch a sack of money. I never set myself this task. My task is to tell them about the possibilities of Ukraine, which are great. You know that we have a fine technological, technical and scientific potential. If we, indeed, manage to show and persuade our Japanese friends that they should not worry about any Japanese investments here, I am convinced Japanese capital will flow to Ukraine.

Our interest in world-leading Japanese technologies is also known, the more so in that I believe the economic power of the very Japan does not equal its political influence. We would also like to have (?an opportunity) to work with Japan.

Among the meetings planned, there will be those with all top Japanese officials and this, I believe, will make my visit there useful.

As for the name for my tenure of office as president, I would not like to (?adopt any). I refer you to my (?speeches) where there are a lot of proposals on the name for the contemporary period of our lives. I would like my main task to be set as the name for our era, really, to be the unification of the state, for there not to be any conflicts in politics, religion, and so forth that are present in our society today, as this is the basis for our state's further development.

[Paraphonya] Oleksandra Paraphonya, NEZAVISIMOST. Mr. President, what is your attitude toward the party program approved by the Communist Party of Ukraine, and the slogans against Ukraine, the state and president that organization will use to build developed Socialism? Do you agree with those who believe actions by the president on these calls, plans, and activities should be much more decisive?

[Kuchma] I have not yet fully gained insight into the Communist Party of Ukraine's second congress program. However, on the basis of what little information I had in Copenhagen yesterday, I asked myself: Is this congress happening in Ukraine or not?

You know that from the first day of my presidency I stated that I was ready to cooperate with any Ukrainian party, if that party really acted in the interests of Ukraine and for the development of its economy. But what was heard there, in my view, lacked any constructiveness, realism, or concrete proposals. [Name indistinct], former CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, even told me that this was the most Communist program out of all Communist Party programs on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

As for criticism of the president, I could also put a lot of questions to them. First, what, indeed, has been done in the 70 years of unilateral rule by the Communist Party in the Soviet Union? What has been done by the very Communists in the course of perestroyka? Why were they silent then, during the destruction of the whole economy? Were they probably afraid?

Accusations that the current president in six months has led the economy to this state, you understand, are too much.

[Unidentified correspondent] There is information that the draft law on power submitted by you has already been coordinated and is ready. Is that so? How could you describe the final version and what hopes do you have that this draft will be adopted by the parliament?

[Kuchma] You know that the coordination commission has worked fruitfully on that draft. It considered over 900 proposals from Supreme Council deputies. We were cooperative and in fact the draft that we are today proposing to the Supreme Council has been fully approved by the coordination commission, fully. As for its adoption, you understand it would be a very good step from all points of view because the political situation in Ukraine today is extremely complicated and a further delay in adoption of this law, and it is the issue of division of powers between the legislative and the executive powers. [sentence as heard] Most importantly, there must appear a vertical of executive power. Here, I think that it was in one of your newspapers I read: Today, field commanders are in control. You have them in your regions too. I also stress that we have a vacuum of power today. This allows those fat cats about whom I was talking to come to our country. Therefore, a vacuum of power is beneficial for them. I think that if we in the Supreme Council are going to see this issue like this, I am convinced that this law will be adopted. If not, you should understand it would lead to anarchy and so forth.

[Name indistinct] POLITYKA. Leonid Danylovych, tell us please when we can expect a new government to be formed, when will new appointments take place, when will you present to the Supreme Council your proposals on the prime minister—I am just specifying—everything concerning the debate in the Supreme Council on a report by the government. Will you initiate the issue of

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creating a new government? That was the first question, now a second one: The Supreme Council yesterday adopted in the first reading amendments to the law on the security service of Ukraine in which there is an article, which stipulates that appointment of heads of top positions in the Security Service of Ukraine have to be agreed with the commission on defense and national security. What is your attitude toward this?

[Kuchma] It reminds me: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine or the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Everybody there had to be confirmed. Tell me please what connection does the Supreme Council have to it? As for the government and its composition, you know I do not like to raise the issue of the report of the government at the Supreme Council. There is again a confrontation of communities, including divisions in the Supreme Council itself. [words indistinct] I would like to address them. I spoke with Oleksandr Oleksandrovych [Moroz], we have found some time. There are too many laws piled up in the Supreme Council. What should we do? If we are going to implement actively the decision on reforming our economy, the Supreme Council's task is to provide a legislative base for reforms. You can see that our legislation is lagging behind. When presidential edicts appear, since it is already impossible to wait, the Supreme Council begin discussions whether that contradicts the Constitution or the legislation or not. Nothing here today corresponds with anything. Everything is contradictory: Either to the Constitution or the current legislation. Deputies of the Supreme Council have not been elected according to the Constitution of the country. I have signed a proposal to the Supreme Council regarding Masol. The Supreme Council must first of all accept the resignation of the prime minister and after that I will instruct somebody to form the government.

[Oliynyk] Maryana Oliynyk, KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. Mr. President, it has become known that on 22 March the Supreme Council of Crimea is to debate the issue of a referendum on the Crimean Republic's independence, to be held on 29 April. It appeared at the beginning that our parliament would look into this but it then, as it were, refrained from this. What is your attitude toward these developments, please?

[Kuchma] My impression is that the Supreme Council of Crimea does not want to cooperate with Ukraine at all. If it is unwilling or, perhaps, unable to do so, then our Supreme Council should take adequate decisions.

I think that the Crimean people themselves are already sick and tired of this. Just look at what they are doing in Crimea.

[Name indistinct] Mr. President: What would your initial reaction be if the Supreme Council failed to pass this budget? The second question in brief is this: There are reports from Moscow that President Yeltsin will be on vacation for another two weeks. Are you really expecting him to visit Kiev this (?month)?

[Kuchma] I can only wish that Boris Yeltsin has a good rest. The Ukrainian side is almost completely ready to sign all agreements with Russia. What is required now is some political will by them.

I talked about this with Viktor Chernomyrdin in Copenhagen. There also is (?a possibility) and a need to urgently sign a document on restructuring our debt to Russia. So, the specific issue of the Black Sea Fleet apart, I think there is no problem between Ukraine and Russia that would today impede a meeting to sign those documents.

I would once again like to recall that I am in favor of a more concrete settlement to the Black Sea Fleet issue. We will search for these decisions.

If the budget is not approved, I would like to say that in my view, this is the most realistic budget in all the years of our existence. If the deputies are my colleagues, as it were, they should understand that Ukraine no longer has any reserves whatsoever. We have used them up to feed ourselves. The president will never accept responsibility for any more populist moves.

I am ready, within the constraints of this budget, to revise articles and so forth but I have absolutely no right to overstep the boundary of a 7.3 percent budget deficit. I would again like to say that this is paper and the people have now understood that the more money is printed the worse our life gets.

I am convinced that the Supreme Council will after all approve this budget. If not, we will await the law on power.

[Name indistinct] Volodymyr [name indistinct], the national radio. Esteemed Leonid Danylovych: How far has the work on our state's new constitution progressed so far?

[Kuchma] I believe that the process is in progress as it should be, because there can be no rush here. You know my opinion that I would rather not hasten the passage of this constitution, since I and you can see that this Supreme Council is incapable of doing so. This is also demonstrated by the course of the debate at the Constitutional Commission. I am pleased, however, that the latest Constitutional Commission meeting virtually completed the examination of all chapters in this constitution. The commission has drawn up the material that can now be worked on.

There are a great deal of differences. You see, whenever a representative of the Communist Party takes the floor he says: We have our own plan or our own constitution. Should a representative of the Christian Democratic Party speak, he maintains: There is our own constitution and so forth. So I think that we must continue working on the constitution, working effectively, and to search for a mechanism to pass the constitution.

[Kulikov] Yuriy Kulikov, REUTER Agency. Esteemed Leonid Danylovych: Forgive me, for I would like you to

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return to the subject of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations. When you met Viktor Chernomyrdin [words indistinct]. When, indeed, can the Russian president return and visit Ukraine and what other problems remain? The IMF insists on restructuring the debt in the next few days. Is the document brought here by Yuriy Dubinin a really new initiative [words indistinct] the issue of the Black Sea Fleet?

The second question has to do with Chernobyl. [Words indistinct] the Cabinet of Ministers will decide its future. What is this future and will it be a decision taken in the national interests of Ukraine?

[Kuchma] I will honestly say that I did not ask Viktor Stepanovich about the date of the visit. Nor will I ever ask, as [laughing] I have already made three announcements that it would take place in October, in December, in January or—I no longer remember—now in March.

I do not think there is anything to hamper normal relations between ourselves and Russia. I would only like this treaty to be signed as soon as possible since there are many both within Russian society and on the political arena, including Russia's legislature, who oppose normal relations between Russia and Ukraine. I would have thought that signing this treaty (?will settle) many political issues.

As for Chernobyl, I told the meeting in Copenhagen that (?it would be totally erroneous) to take a political decision. (?No way). As president, I must reach a comprehensive decision on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Enough of political decisions on disarmament and so forth. We have been promised a lot and you know what we have received. [Words indistinct] disarmament at present.

To answer this question comprehensively, we really must act on the basis of the interests of those people who work there. I (?visited the town of Slavutych) and it really is a town of the 21st century. To a degree it reminds me of the West and the very Copenhagen, since cottages were built there by Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Armenia, Russia, and so forth and everybody (?built a town of their own).

You will understand that apart from employment at the nuclear power plant, the over 30,000 people have no other jobs. The closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—as tentatively estimated by foreign experts—will cost $1.4 billion. Ukraine has no such money. Nobody under the sun will give it to us either.

I realize that these two reactors have practically exhausted their service life under the warranty and are in need of technical renovation. This also costs a lot at just under (?three) [currency not specified].

It should be further noted that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's output accounts for over five percent of Ukraine's total electricity generation. For example, shutting it down will mean finding an additional 5 million tonnes of coal, to speak nothing of the shortage of the very electricity, particularly last year when we had no fuel oil, gas, and so on, and our thermal power engineering halved its capacity. We were rescued by the nuclear power industry, which prevented the total collapse of Ukraine's energy complex. Last year, it generated over 10 billion [measure not further specified]. Now multiply this by three [word indistinct]. We (?in this manner) earn approximately $1.5 billion. It is the cheapest type of electricity. Nothing comes cheaper than that, be it gas or coal costing twice as much. If these two generating sets shut down a thermal power station would have to be built.

On the subject of the Sarcophagus, Russian scientists from an institute in St. Petersburg concluded at the time of its construction that it would last 30 to 50 years. It has already worked for 10 years. But let us consider how we often do the building. Instead of concrete grade 600, we can stick grade 300 in it or replace some structures with something else while we are at it. No scientist today will vouch for its service life, not even 30 years. No scientist would say for sure what processes there are under way there and whether there may occur (?a chain reaction) tomorrow. Not one of those whom I saw yesterday would guarantee anything.

One of the main points is the construction of the Sarcophagus, as the closure of the generating sets alone does nothing for the security of Ukraine and Europe as a whole. There are thousands of tonnes of waste. A storage should be built. But where?

Yuriy Ivanovych Kostenko [environment and nuclear safety minister] said yesterday: Let us build it in the Chernobyl area. Scientists, however, immediately objected and said: No, it is not quite possible and another location should be found. Western scientists, for example, say it should be done where there is only clay, while Canadians maintain it should be done somewhere in the mountains, and so on.

There are thousands of problems. There is also a human side to these problems. If I said today that we were to close down Chernobyl tomorrow, there would certainly be nobody there the day after tomorrow. This is just an example. This is the main danger. All foreign experts agree that safety—by 60 percent or more—mainly depends on staff and their skillfulness. So let us approach this problem comprehensively.

Our main problem, however, is our capability to survive in this market. You know that to manufacture goods we spend twice or three times the amount of energy used in Europe or elsewhere. So the West, should it be willing to do so, must also help in this respect—in re-equipping all our energy industry, which particularly applies to thermal power, and in other areas.

I have approached the G-7 and will sign a letter to the European Union requesting them to send in technical experts who will look at this problem from every point of

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view and reach a comprehensive decision, since I am convinced that if we (?procrastinate today), we will (?be faced with) this problem on our own tomorrow.

Kuchma Explains Marchuk's Appointment

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev, 15 Mar—President Leonid Kuchma held a news conference following his return from the world summit on social development in Copenhagen. [passage omitted]

He answered journalists' questions concerning internal problems. Asked whether the government would soon report to the Supreme Council, the president said he did not favor the idea of the cabinet reporting. The report would only exacerbate the differences between the legislative and executive powers in Ukraine and further destabilize the political situation, he said.

According to Kuchma, the Supreme Council should first approve Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol's resignation and confirm Yevhen Marchuk's appointment to the post. Only then can the issue of the cabinet's resignation be raised.

In the first ever explanation of his decision to appoint Marchuk to head the government, President Kuchma said: "The president and prime minister must be of the same political team." The prime minister must not be an independent political figure, he added. But today Ukraine needs first of all the approval of the law on power, and if it is not done in the near future the country will face anarchy, Kuchma said.

The president also offered his prediction of developments in the event of parliament's failure to approve the 1995 state budget: "Let us wait and see after the draft law on power is approved." The draft law allows Kuchma to dissolve the Supreme Council if it fails to approve the draft budget.

Marchuk's Political Prospects Viewed

954F1690A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Vitaliy Portnikov: "Yevgeniy Marchuk Is Made Head of the Government. Vitaliy Masol Resigns, As Expected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The resignation of Vitaliy Masol from the office of prime minister of Ukraine may hardly be considered a political sensation: Masol, who had been head of the government since before the election of Leonid Kuchma and who had seemed an obvious protege not so much to the left as, simply, to all those with an interest in the preservation of the old economic system, was manifestly not the man of the president, neither the first nor the second, what is more. Kuchma maintained his tolerance (not without exasperation) in relation to Masol for some time, not forgetting to recall, however, that the latter had become premier without his consent. But in recent months the criticism of the head of the government had become increasingly bitter, and at a recent meeting of the Cabinet, Masol's resignation was demanded by Leonid Kuchma's closest associates. Vitaliy Masol's first departure from the office of prime minister took a student hunger strike. Now the premier has left entirely peacefully, and we can only guess at the scale of the skirmish that unfolded behind the scenes.... But it is known that Masol had for several months been surrounded by a tightly knit group of Kuchma-appointee first deputy prime ministers and simply deputy prime ministers who concentrated in the hands of the collective leadership the functions of head of the government. No doubt about it, Vitaliy Masol's second premiership was even less successful than the first. Masol returned, but "his time" had gone.

The appointment as acting head of the Ukrainian Cabinet of First Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk also appears entirely logical and had been predicted by observers repeatedly. The question is whether Marchuk can convert the temporary into a permanent premiership. Thus far, his chances would appear highly promising. The first deputy prime minister is in charge of two priority areas for Leonid Kuchma—Russo-Ukrainian relations and the fight against corruption. He is for the president a valuable assistant, if it is recalled that it was Marchuk who moved the process forward and achieved the initialing of the bilateral treaty at the negotiations with Oleg Soskovets. Nor does anyone question Marchuk's enlightenment in matters of the fight against corruption: It is hard to imagine that anyone would be more informed than the former head of Ukraine's security service.

Marchuk has pretty good chances in parliament also—he enjoys the support of the most diverse forces. Many deputies like his "strong man" image. Finally, Marchuk's appointment could dot the "i's" in the argument about whether President Kuchma himself should be head of the government. The deputies will most likely agree to the preservation of the office of prime minister in the hope of the efficiency of the Kuchma-Marchuk tandem. Parliament's passage of the law on power proposed by the president is thus increasingly likely.

Has Leonid Kuchma made the final choice? It is not hard to observe that society is pushing the president in this direction: Positive opinions prevail in the commentaries that have been published, and many politicians prefer to speak of Marchuk as having become the head of the Government of Ukraine. In the months that have elapsed since the change of power, Yevgeniy Marchuk has been able to prove to many people that he was not Leonid Kravchuk's man. It remains to be seen whether Yevgeniy Marchuk is Leonid Kuchma's man. Thus far, Marchuk has shown himself to be a politician capable of forming a bloc with the leader of the state on a number of matters of principle and of competently implementing the proposals of the Ukrainian president, who has

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chosen for himself the role more of strategic national leader than of a practical expert who aspires to the personal realization of this direction of his policy or the other. In any event, Leonid Kuchma's practical intervention in policy has always evoked an exasperated response from the person himself. The president is sure that it is the whole system that must work, not an individual personality. If Yevgeniy Marchuk becomes prime minister of Ukraine (and not acting prime minister), the creation in the country of a presidential republic whereby the functions of leader of the executive and the leader of the state are sufficiently clearly separated and where each leader has authority that does not crimp the freedom of the other will truly be possible.

And one further important advantage of the appointment of Yevgeniy Marchuk: He could, most likely, finally reconcile with Leonid Kuchma many of the supporters of the first Ukrainian president and a whole range of national-democratic movements and politicians, who have since the election campaign regarded the second Ukrainian president with a certain suspicion. In addition, Yevgeniy Marchuk and his tactics at the Russo-Ukrainian negotiations convinced many of those with misgivings that the present Ukrainian leadership will remain just as much a guarantor of Ukrainian statehood as the previous one. The elevation of Yevgeniy Marchuk was thus the logical response to these social forces, as it were.

Kuchma Calls For Communist Support

AU1503150195 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Mar 95 p 2

["Address by the Ukrainian President to the Congress of Ukraine's Communist Party" signed by President Leonid Kuchma on 11 March 95]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Delegates,

Your congress has been convened at a historic time that is crucial for our country. On the one hand, Ukraine's extremely complicated transition from its status as a region, dependent upon a superpower, to an independent state is under way. On the other hand, our society is trying to proceed from an administrative-command economy and an authoritarian-bureaucratic system to a socially-oriented market and democratic forms of state existence. In real life, these two development trends are closely interwoven, and this results in a particular complexity of social processes. Besides, the objective difficulties, which are typical of any transition period, have been further aggravated by those due to subjective factors, errors, and shortcomings of political forces and leaders that determined Ukraine's course toward its statehood.

As a result, the life of the majority of our state's citizens has deteriorated, and for many of them it has become intolerable. This is no secret for the Ukrainian president. The pain and suffering of thousands of people resound with pain in my own heart, and I do not remain aloof, even for a minute, of the burden of responsibility for the fate of millions of my fellow citizens.

That is why I quite understand the concern on the part of various political forces, including Ukraine's Communist Party, about the present state of our society and its future.

What main conclusion may be drawn from this? Should we turn back, revive the former Union and its system of social relations or proceed from the assumption that history does not repeat itself and that salvation lies in moving forward only?

If we want to be realistic and remain politicians, truly accountable before the people, we must opt for the second answer. Not only is it determined by lessons of our own history, but also by the rich experience of those foreign countries that have managed to create a standard of living worthy of man.

I see the main strategic task in leading Ukrainian society toward natural historical conditions of development by way of evolution and without any social coercion so that people would have the greatest possible area for applying their efforts and talents. It is precisely in such circumstances and at all times that states, people, nations, and human societies have been most prosperous and the individual has had the greatest chance of becoming happy.

The experience of many countries shows that left-wing parties may play a positive and important role in the establishment and development of socially-oriented democracies.

I am sure that the contemporary communist movement in Ukraine has in it many supporters for constructive cooperation with the president, those, who do not strive for endless confrontation, but for fruitful cooperation aimed at achieving the well-being and prosperity of Ukraine's people.

I express my sincere hope and expectations that precisely this approach will find support from delegates of your congress.

I wish you success!

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma

11 March 1995

Communist Party Declares Opposition to Kuchma

AU1503154195 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Mar 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine's Communist Party Has Declared Itself a Successor to the Ukrainian SSR Communist Party Within the CPSU"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the second congress of Ukraine's Communist Party, which ended in Kiev on 12 March, the delegates declared the party a legal successor to the one that had existed within the CPSU and was banned

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in August 1991. The congress introduced corresponding changes into the party's statutes, adopted its program, and elected its leadership. Petro Symonenko, Ukraine's people's deputy and leader of the communist faction at the Supreme Council, was again elected leader of Ukraine's Communist Party. P. Symonenko characterized the main idea of the new program using V.I. Lenin's words: "It is impossible to emerge from the crisis unless we move toward socialism." Speaking from the congress podium, the leader of Ukraine's Communist Party listed the following main reasons for the economic crisis in Ukraine: "The disintegration of the USSR, the policy of ruthless deprivation of the people, and the promotion of capitalism." Justifying the party's decision to join the opposition to the Ukrainian president, he accused Leonid Kuchma of "betraying his pre-election promises and adopting the position of his rival Leonid Kravchuk." "We will prevail," summed up Petro Symonenko.

Navy Commander Denies Tendering Resignation

LD1503171095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1615 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Reports about my resignation circulated in the press are somewhat hasty, Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, Ukraine's navy commander, told UNIAN.

He said he had previously thought of resignation because of an illness, but the diagnosis was not confirmed. Bezkorovaynyy denied he had tendered any letters of resignation.

The navy commander said he planned to continue serving the cause of building the Ukrainian fleet. The vice admiral recently had a talk with Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, to discuss the current state and prospects for the development of the Ukrainian Navy.

He added that he had come to Kiev for a scheduled round of talks with Russian officials on the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

Resignation Rejected, Withdrawn

LD1603095595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0930 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 16 TASS—Ukrainian Naval Commander Vladimir Bezkorovayny withdrew his resignation after Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov refused to accept it, the press centre of the ministry told ITAR-TASS on Thursday [16 March].

According to some local experts and politicians, although Bezkorovayny motivated his resignation by health problems, factually it had been triggered by his dispute with the minister over a visit to the Middle East by the Ukrainian ship "Getman Sagaydachny". The minister demanded that the crew of the ship should be reduced by half because of insufficient financing of the visit by a private company. The navy commander refused.

Another version suggested that the row between the minister and the navy commander had been caused by different approaches towards the problem of the fleet's deployment.

Whatever it could be, the conflict seems to have been settled for the time being.

Kuchma Favors 'Complex' Chernobyl Approach

LD1503152795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 15 Mar 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Mar 15 (Interfax-Ukraine)—If Kiev decides to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, it will be left to is own devices in the search for a solution to the Chernobyl problem, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told journalists Wednesday [15 March] in Kiev.

Kuchma opts for a "complex" approach to the Chernobyl problem. The building of alternative power production plant, the solution of the "sarcophagus" problem and the utilization of the thousands of tonnes of nuclear waste are problems that are high on the national agenda, Kuchma said.

If the decision to close the plant is made tomorrow, Kuchma said, the day after tomorrow there will be no-one there although security depends on the presence of the plant's labor staff. And, the interests of the labor staff and the residents of the city of Slavutich, who have no other jobs to land, must be taken into consideration, too, he said.

Kuchma acknowledged, though, that two of the plant's nuclear reactors "have all but exhausted their potential and demand the replacement of their functional units."

Kuchma had requested the Big Seven and the European Union to detail experts for the study of the whole gamut of the Chernobyl-related problems.

On Tuesday Kuchma visited the Chernobyl plant and the city of Slavutich.

Nuclear Power Stations Lack Storage Sites

LD1603100995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] If nothing is done, Ukraine's nuclear power stations may come to a halt in 1995-96 because of a shortage of facilities for storing used fuel, said Vladimir Fuks, director general of Yuzno-Ukrainskaya atomic power station. No waste from Ukraine's nuclear power stations was taken out in 1992-93, which resulted in nuclear waste storages being overcrowded.

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Economic Issues

Foreign Economic Policy Guidelines Detailed

WS1603121595 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0812 GMT 16 Mar 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A draft Guidelines for International Economic Activities of Ukraine, prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Activities, determines Ukraine's first priority to be cooperation with the CIS countries and the Baltic states. The draft foresees investment of Ukrainian finances into mining industries of these countries; creation of international and multinational corporations; development of relations based on direct agreements with such regions of the Russian Federation as Tyumen, Komi, Karelia, Yakutia, Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, and the far east of Russia; and the deeper participation of Ukraine and preservation of Ukraine's associated membership in the economic union of CIS structures. Relations with the European Union (EU) were deemed the second priority, after those with the CIS, in international economic activities. In the next six years Ukraine plans to gain the status of associated member of the EU, with preference given to developing ties with Germany, Italy, Spain, and Greece. Development of relations with Canada, the United States, and Japan is most desirable, in the opinion of the authors of the guidelines, in Ukraine's highly effective industries (electric welding technologies, artificially created diamonds, superhard materials, and some rare-earth metals). Next on the scale of priorities are countries of central Europe; countries of the Black Sea economic zone; Iran and countries of the Persian Gulf; and China and newly industrialized countries of Asia.

The Conception foresees that by the year 2000 the major role of the state will be preserved in international trade activities regulations. During this period it is planned to decrease the export of cast iron and black rolled metals, and to increase sales of high-quality steel. The main export production will remain excavators, means of transportation, metal cutting devices, sulfite, mineral fertilizers, bromides, cable, sugar, vegetable oils, military technologies. State policy will stimulate import of raw materials which are in shortage (even on given material terms?), spare parts for previously imported technologies, highly-effective feed for cattle breeding, medical supplies, nourishment for children, and other goods of critical import. On March 13, the draft Conception on International Economic Activities was examined at the presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. After reworking it will be offered for approval by the Supreme Council.

Investment Plans by Russia's GazProm Welcomed

WS1603104195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0059 GMT 16 Mar 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Viktor Zubaniuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, March 15—GazProm, a Russian joint-stock company, named 15 Ukrainian enterprises in which it would like to invest.

State Oil, Gas and Oil Refining Committee experts said the list includes mostly profitable and well-equipped enterprises of non-ferrous and chemical industries.

President Leonid Kuchma said Wednesday [15 March] it is important for Ukraine to attract investments from whatever country it can.

"I don't see a great difference between the Russian ruble and the American dollar in regards to investments in our economy," he said. "We have to work within the interests of Ukraine. The capacity of our chemical enterprises is only from 30 percent to 40 percent because they do not have money to pay for gas. So it would be good if GazProm will start investing into these enterprises.

"We have to make sure a controlling bloc of shares to belong to the Ukrainian side, however."

According to a source in the oil and gas committee who requested anonymity, the list includes Nykopol-based ferroalloys plant, Dniprodzerzhynsk-based Azot plant, Kalusha-based Oriana concern, Vinnitsa-based chemical Kombinat, Mykolayiv-based alumina plant, Odessa port's plant, GasExport joint-stock company, Kiev-based KyivSpetsComplectGas joint stock company, ZakarpatSpetsComplectGas joint-stock company, Rivne-based Azot plant, Cherkasy-based Azot joint-stock company, Zaporizhia-based ferroalloys plant, SeveroDonetsk Azot plant, and the Horlovka-based Stirop plant.

GazProm wants to own 35 to 50 percent stakes in these enterprises. The Russian company will barter the Ukrainian enterprises' shares as a way for Ukraine to pay off its debt for Russian gas.

"Due to the support of the International Monetary Fund, during the last negotiations in Moscow, we agreed with Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Prime Minister, that the debt restructuring should be conducted in compliance with the conditions adopted by the Paris Club of Creditors in respect to Russia," Kuchma said. "You should understand that if we give our plants to Russia to pay off the debt to GazProm worth US $2 billion, then we will have nothing left for us."

GazProm supplied Ukraine with 56.03 billion cubic meters of natural gas last year and 6 billion cubic meters this January, the source said. At the same time, by Jan. 1, 1995, UkrGasProm paid off only about half of its 1994 debt. Ukraine's debt to GazProm is US $1.5 billion (without taking into account the fines for payment delays for 1994). Russia and Ukraine are supposed to reach an agreement on the debt amount by the end of March. According to the data, by Feb. 10, Ukraine paid 25.6 percent of the cost of Russian natural gas supplied to Ukraine since Jan. 1, 1995 (taking into account the

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transit payment for exporting the Russian gas). The debt was US $276 million for this period.

For two years, GazProm has proposed that Ukraine can pay off part of its gas and oil debt by letting Russia participate in the privatization of Ukrainian enterprises.

Ukraine never agreed to these propositions, however. Ukrainian government officials told the Russian side that by March 31 Ukraine will create a governmental committee to solve the issue during the last Moscow negotiations between the two countries' gas industry officials.

Observers say Ukraine's lack of money to pay off the Russian gas debt, coupled by the payment crisis in Ukraine's economy, will make way for Russia to own shares in Ukraine's gas and oil industries.

Decree Passed on Duty-Free 'Cooperative Production'

WS1603121695 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0812 GMT 16 Mar 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On March 15, the Supreme Council of Ukraine ratified an agreement on general conditions and mechanisms of support for the development of cooperative production of the CIS enterprises and member states. The agreement frees the CIS states from payment of export and import tariffs, taxes, excise duties, and quantitative restrictions on goods which are supplied on the basis of cooperative production. This includes products of financial- industrial groups, multinational production enterprises, and joint ventures. Until the creation of a customs union for the CIS, the grounds for customs to let these goods through the border will be contracts signed by enterprises on the basis of corresponding intergovernmental, industrial and interagency agreements. The order of supplying components to military enterprises will be determined by separate intergovernmental documents. The agreement foresees that the signatories will avoid making claims for interpayment for goods, works, and services in convertible foreign currency, and instead, coordinate with each other prices for cooperatively produced goods. Raw materials and unfinished goods which are exported in accordance with this agreement cannot be reexported to third countries.

Member of Parliament Taras Stetskiv said that Ukraine became the fifth state to ratify this agreement. The only parliamentary factions which voted against ratification were "Rukh" and "Reforms." In Stetskiv's opinion, the agreement is not advantageous for Ukraine because of Ukraine's negative balance of trade with Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, which is why a cancellation of all the tariff barriers, as foreseen by the agreement, will lead to the flooding of Ukraine's market with cheap goods from these four countries, and actually will draw Ukraine closer to the CIS. The only advantage which Ukraine might gain from this agreement is a decrease in the price of energy. But for the same reason Russia might not ratify the agreement, because it wants to keep the right to sell oil and gas at current prices. According to Volodymyr Pylypchuk, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, cancellation of duty payments on a large number of products imported to Ukraine, as foreseen by the agreement, will lead to a substantial decrease of income to the state budget and will create favorable conditions for the re-exportation of these products to third countries.

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Belarus

Lukashenka on NATO, Relations With Russia

BR1503143795 Brussels LE SOIR in French 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Pol Mathil; place and date not given: "Belarus, Russia, and the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mathil] You signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with the European Union in Brussels. What are you expecting from the West?

[Lukashenka] I am satisfied with this first contact with Belgium and Europe. I was particularly impressed by my meeting with the king of Belgium.

[Mathil] You have just signed an agreement with Boris Yeltsin on the "joint defense" of Belarus' borders. On this occasion Yeltsin stated that "it is also Russia's border." How do you reconcile this with Belarus's independence?

[Lukashenka] Your interpretation of this agreement is incorrect. The treaty states that Belarus border guards themselves will protect our borders. Admittedly in cooperation with the Russians, but in ways which do not compromise Belarus' sovereignty. The latest opinion polls show that between 70 and 80 percent of our citizens favor a policy aimed at integration with Russia. The example of Belgium, a member of the European Union, shows that integration and sovereignty are perfectly reconcilable.

[Mathil] Russia accounts for 70 percent of all your trade and supplies you with 100 percent of your energy supplies. Are not the Russians using this economic dependency in order to win political concessions, in foreign policy in particular?

[Lukashenka] Belarus is clearly economically dependent on Russia. All the former members of the USSR depend on Russia for their energy. However, Moscow has acted perfectly correctly with regard to Minsk in terms of foreign policy. Belarus alone determines its foreign policy.

[Mathil] The fact remains that you have agreed to stop reductions in the military, a process laid down by a treaty which you yourself signed. Did you not state on 9 March that one of the reasons for this suspension is the plan to enlarge NATO? Is this not helping Moscow in its strategy to oppose NATO's enlargement in Central Europe?

[Lukashenka] As far as Russia's strategy is concerned, that is a question you must put to President Yeltsin. As far as we are concerned, the halt in the reduction of weapons is due to the lack of financial resources and is therefore a purely Belarusian question. We have already destroyed 70 percent of the planned volume. Whereas the West, which was to provide $800 million to help finance this operation, has failed to keep its promises. To understand our difficulties, you need only know that 20 percent of our budget is allocated to progressively eliminating the effects of Chernobyl. Moreover, NATO's eastward enlargement does concern us. It is not moving up to Russia's borders but to our borders.

[Mathil] Why are you afraid of NATO possibly moving up to the border between you and Poland?

[Lukashenka] How would you react if Soviet tanks appeared in West Germany for example? We have excellent relations with Poland which is not threatened by anyone.

[Mathil] The Poles think differently. Do they not fear destabilization to the east of their borders? Do you not feel such a danger exists?

[Lukashenka] It is not my problem. I am president of Belarus and I do not concern myself with the problems of other countries. Each country must be sure to ensure order within its own borders. In any event, the arrival of NATO would not reduce the danger of destabilization. We do not want our western border to become the border with the NATO military bloc. We see this as a perfectly justifiable desire, which is not the result of Russian pressure.

[Mathil] Is it true that you wanted to sell the West the Russian S-300 PMU antimissile system, but gave up the idea under Russian pressure?

[Lukashenka] No, it is not true. For the simple reason that we do not have such a system in Belarus. Moreover, it is not a secret system as several countries have it and Russia is prepared to sell it. If we wanted to sell it, nobody, not even Russia, could prevent us.

[Mathil] And yet your government did not take up a position on Chechnya. Did you discuss it with Yeltsin?

[Lukashenka] No, it is an internal Russian affair.

[Mathil] Are you not concerned by the methods used by Moscow to pacify Chechnya? Are these matters not the subject of international agreements, the Helsinki agreement and others?

[Lukashenka] No, it is an exclusively internal affair for Russia. It would be better for the West not to get involved. Neither you nor us have sufficient information. Television is not enough.

[Mathil] But it is not just television. Are not members of the Duma and Russian democrats in general denouncing the Russian atrocities in Chechnya?

[Lukashenka] And what about the Falklands? Why did you not denounce Great Britain?

[Mathil] Because there was no Groznyy in the Atlantic Ocean...

[Lukashenka] (...)

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[Mathil] On the other hand, Chernobyl is geographically located in the Ukraine, very close to your borders and caused a disaster in Belarus. Its closure has been postponed. What do you propose?

[Lukashenka] The closure of Chernobyl is a matter for the Ukraine.

[Mathil] You won the elections with, in particular, an anticorruption message. What results have been achieved?

[Lukashenka] All the individuals in question have already left the central administration. Action is in progress at lower levels.

[Mathil] You met with Belgian and European authorities in Brussels, but not with NATO. Why?

[Lukashenka] I wanted to...

[Mathil] How should your name be pronounced in French, Loukachenko or Loukachenka, and the name of your country: Belarus or Byelorussia?

[Lukashenka] Loukachenko and Belarus.

Lukashenka Signs Edict Renewing Privatization Program

LD1503171895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Mar 15 (Interfax)—President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has signed a decree "On Measures to Perfect and Reform State Assets". Lukashenka thereby renewed the program for privatizing state enterprises, which he suspended after coming to power last summer. Lukashenka suspended privatization due to numerous cases of abuse by officials of various rank who, Lukashenka said, engaged in "preyvitization" - taking bribes anu creating favorable terms for commercial structures to lay hands on state assets.

The decree contains a number of ideas on how to perfect the mechanism to reform state enterprises into joint stock companies. For instance, the charter capitals of joint stock companies will be carried out on the basis of re-evaluation of fixed assets (with inflation taken into account).

Lukashenka instructed the government to "take measures to give all citizens equal opportunities to participate in the privatization of state assets, fill the market of securities with shares of open type joint stock companies and arrange for their sale for personal privatization vouchers and cash".

Lukashenka ordered inventorying all state assets in Belarus in order to put accounting in order and guarantee its safety. Under the decree a database will be set up in Belarus on the structure and value of assets of enterprises and organizations, which are owned by the state or by communal authorities.

Lukashenka instructed local authorities and the Ministry for the Management of State Property and Privatization to draw up a program to corporize and privatize facilities that are communally owned, bearing in mind that shops, public catering facilities, services and cargo motor transport must be privatized by January 1 1996.

Hryb Nominated Candidate for Upcoming Elections

WS1503145295 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by BELAPAN correspondent Antos Haradzenski: "Myacheslaw Hryb Has Been Nominated Candidate for Parliamentary Seat by His Countrymen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The electorate in Dzyatlaw rayon of Hrodna Oblast has held a meeting devoted to the nomination of candidates for the upcoming elections to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

Members of the agricultural association "Niva" decided to put forward their countryman Myacheslaw Hryb, chairman of the Republic's highest legislative body, as their candidate.

Inspection of Missile Facilities Questioned

LD1503230295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian at 1900 GMT on 15 March broadcasts a two-minute report on Belarus inheriting 28 missile facilities from the former USSR. Despite the fact that the missiles were cut as far back as 1990 and more than half of their locations have been handed over to state and economic entities they are still being visited by foreign inspection groups. The fact is that the treaty on reduction of medium- and short-range missiles is valid indefinitely and the protocol on inspections envisages work by control groups until 2001. Representatives of the National Agency for Control and Inspection at the Ministry of Defense of our country have equal rights with any other state that implements this treaty, however they cannot afford to go to the United States on return inspections. America has just sent yet another group of inspectors consisting of 10 people who will be able to be convinced once again during their 120 days' stay that Belarus has no more short- and medium-range missiles and the missile facilities have been handed over to civil organizations. However, those places remain under control.

Moldova

Appeal for Support in Joining Council of Europe

AU1503195895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 15/3/1995—Mihai Popov, Moldovan minister of foreign affairs, has appealed to the heads of Foreign Ministries

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of the Council of Europe member states to support Moldova in its striving for joining the European forum.

In his letter sent to 34 countries, the minister pointed out that in recent time Moldova has undertaken concrete steps promoting democratization, building of a law-governed state, and transition to market economy. For examples, Popov referred to the multi-party parliamentary elections in 1994, adoption of a new Constitution, re-structuring of the national judicial system, adoption of other regulatory enactments.

The letter emphasizes that joining the Council of Europe is not an end in itself, but is a striving for integration into the system of European values in order to provide for rights and freedoms of citizens irrespective of their nationality and religion.

"Supporting Moldova in its wish to become a member of the Council of Europe would become an act of justice and backing its reforms," the minister wrote to his European colleagues.

Moldova's admission to the Council will be considered at the Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in June. Currently, the issue is considered at the sitting of the Political Committee, holding a close-door sitting in London.

Special Status Proposed for Dniester

LD1503195495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldovan and Transdniestrian experts met in Chisinau today to work out a document defining the special status of Transdniestria.

Moldovan Deputy Foreign Minister Nicolae Osmocescu said on Chisinau radio that the situation at the Moldovan-Transdniestrian talks resembled a deadlock. He said Tiraspol had returned to its position in September 1994 proposing that the parties conclude an inter-state agreement.

Osmocescu said such a position was unacceptable for Moldova. He said the Moldovan-Russian agreement on Transdniestria defined it as an autonomy within the limits of a single republic.

Osmocescu said Moldova had worked out its win draft on the special status of Transdniestria. In accordance with this draft, Chisinau will control the foreign policy, defense, finances and customs.

A state assembly elected for a four-year term by direct and secret voting must become a state power body in Transdniestria.

The draft proposed by Moldova also provides for including the heads of the Transdniestrian departments and ministries into the boards of the Moldovan ministries.

The Moldovan Parliament's Chairman Petr Luchinskiy has recently said in an interview with the Soldat Otchiz ny newspaper that Chisinau and Tiraspol must preserve a single state budget for financing nation-wide programs.

Luchinskiy said he believed that to resolve language problems the draft of Chisinau proposed any number of state languages in Transdniestria and allowed Transdniestria to have its own symbols equal to the Moldovan national symbols.

Luchinskiy said the hardest problem involved defense issues. He said he was in favor of demilitarizing the entire republic. At the same time, he stressed that international guarantees would be required for this. He said the U.S., Russia, Ukraine, Romania and the UN could give such guarantees to Moldova. Luchinskiy said the Moldovan leaders had already raised the issue during their recent meeting with the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Luchinskiy said he believed that Moldova should pursue a single foreign policy. However, he said Transdniestria could have the right to participate in international delegations and Moldovan representations abroad.

Socialists Ready To Cooperate With Communists

AU1503195995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 15/3/1995—The Bloc of the Socialist Party and Unity Movement has confirmed readiness to negotiate cooperation with the Communist Party in the framework of a unified left-force bloc.

In the commentary, published today in DREPTATE, the Socialist Party's newspaper, the Communists' refusal to joint the unified left-force bloc has been regarded as "unseemly schismatic gamesmanship."

The Socialist Unity Bloc has appealed through the newspaper to the electorate, having pointed out such Bloc's achievements as Moldova's joining the CIS, granting autonomy to the Gagauzi people, Constitution-fixed notions of "the Moldovans' and the Moldovan language," cessation of speculations about the unification of Moldova and Romania, and prevention of exams in official language knowledge.

The roots of the current economic hardships are viewed by the Socialists and Unity Movement "in the reckless ruining by Moldovan-Romanian unionists of the traditional and mutually beneficial relations with Russia, in the 1992 bloody adventure, in the 1994 natural calamities."

The Appeal reads that the disorganization of the production, corruption and illegal privatization are being done by "impudent and incompetent functionaries who received their posts at the times of Prime Minister Mircea Druc."

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The Socialist Unity Bloc, having 28 out of 104 seats in Parliament, has stated that "hopes for cooperation with the Agrarian Democratic Party of Romania fraction do not always come true," and appealed to its voters "to supplement our representation in Parliament by a greater representation in local power bodies."

Parliament Endorses 1995-96 Privatization Program

LD1503225895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau, 15 Mar—The parliament of Moldova today endorsed a state privatization program for the years 1995-1996. In accordance with the program, privatization by means of the national wealth bonds—Moldovan privatization vouchers—should be completed by 15 September 1995. The value of each voucher depends on its owner's length of service. At a later stage, the national currency—the Moldovan leu—will be used more widely in privatizing state property. The document envisages over 1,450 enterprises being put up for auction sales over the next two years; 800 of these will be privatized for national wealth bonds and 150 for money. Both money and bonds will be used to privatize the rest of the enterprises.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev: Parliamentary Dissolution Required

LD1503132495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 15 (INTERFAX)—Nursultan Nazarbayev thinks it is wrong, to say the least, to compare the developments in Moscow in October 1993 and the dissolution of the Kazakh parliament. "In our case it is not a question of the confrontation of two branches of power, but a legal conflict caused by the unconstitutional nature of several moves of the Central Electoral Committee," he stressed.

"We had to choose between political usefulness and constitutional needs. It was actually a question of establishing the supremacy of law, primarily constitutional norms in political and public life", the president said.

Nazarbayev went on to say that despite the constructive relationship he had with parliament he made the only possible decision in these circumstances and obeyed the requirements of law.

Nazarbayev: Parliamentary Laws Remain Effective

LD1503131795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 15 (INTERFAX)—President Nursultan Nazarbayev believes that even though the dissolved parliament was illegitimate all the agreements and laws it approved should remain in force. In the near future the president intends to issue a decree confirming all the legislation passed by the former parliament.

Until the election of the new parliament all life in the country will be regulated by presidential decrees that will have the force of laws. Nazarbayev said that one of the first laws will be a law on radical steps against crime.

He hoped that the world in general will regard with understanding the legal conflict in his country. There are numerous indications that "the world community accepted the methods of resolving the problem and saw that Kazakhstan remains loyal to its strategy of building a law-governed state."

The president said that even though the crisis is painful for the nation, there is no other optimal way of resolving legal conflicts. "Civilized politics have not invented so far another resolute way to establish a clear system of balances between all branches of power," Nazarbayev said.

Nazarbayev on Dissolution of Parliament

LD1503195995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev in an interview with INTERFAX was commenting on his recent decision to dissolve the country's parliament.

[INTERFAX] Some reports say the dissolution of the one year-long Kazakh parliament follows its opposition to a widening of political and economic contacts not only with Russia but with western countries as well. To what extent is Kazakhstan likely to reverse its home and foreign policy?

[Nazarbayev] To begin with, the Constitutional Court reaffirmed the validity of the previous parliament's resolution of December 1993 widening powers of the president and regional administrators until the next general election.

In the meantime, I am planning to issue soon a package of legally binding decrees on key national issues including measures to fight against organized crime, something that I wanted to unveil in parliament shortly before the conflict broke out. As the head of state, I will take a set of measures aimed to check rising crime and lead the national headquarters to stiffen public law and order.

Legislation will have to be improved and some constitutional amendments made but strictly in line with the country's basic law. Any conflict of ideas must be ruled out in favor of intensive law-making based on tolerance and accounting for the interests of our multiethnic society.

But Kazakhstan's domestic and external policy winning it international recognition will remain unchanged.

There are initial albeit fragile indications of economic results of this policy. An average monthly pay has now topped $80. February marked a 11.3% growth in all industrial sectors (apart from the oil industry subject to seasonal fluctuations) and 6.7% inflation rate. Exports have gone up by 174% since early this year and the country's foreign trade has picked up.

The interest rate fell from last year's 450% to 147% with banks now providing credits for a term of six or nine months. Industrial investment will start to increase as the interest rate drops to 50%- 60% with credits offered for a period of three years.

I am convinced our democratic reforms would help towards building Kazakh statehood and consolidate law and order, civil freedoms and rights and the country's international standing. There is a powerful prop such as local patriotism, commitment to reforms and the people's drive for a dignified and peaceful life.

As the head of state, I want to give assurances of using my powers to help achieve these noble goals.

[INTERFAX] The now-dissolved parliament has ratified a number of international agreements. Do these remain valid now that the parliament was declared illegitimate?

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[Nazarbayev] Yes, they do and I am going to issue an appropriate decree to reaffirm this.

I think the latest legal conflict in Kazakhstan will be met with understanding around the world. More importantly, I have plenty of evidence to prove this. There has been widespread response to our efforts to try to resolve the power crisis and our commitment to building a law-governed state, widening public control of the state and human rights. I have received numerous letters from other countries supporting our measures to assert the supremacy of the law and create a state based on the rule of the law.

We are well aware of being at the start of the road to democracy but as time goes by, we will raise the standards of requirements for democratic processes and government activity. Therefore, what may have looked a success some time ago is being viewed critically now.

The latest crisis seen as something out of the ordinary in Kazakhstan is a routine event in more established democracies which is barely noticed by the public but serving as a way of resolving political imbalances. True, this is a painstaking event to Kazakhstan, but there is no other way of breaking the legal deadlock.

But we will continue to resolve political problems in constitutional ways and by searches of compromise.

[INTERFAX] Isn't the latest decision a repeat of the 1993 Moscow-style scenario of events, though in a peaceful way? Wasn't there any hidden struggle of power between the president and deputies?

[Nazarbayev] I am reluctant to pass any legal judgment on political events in a neighboring state given that there have more than enough statements to this end in Russia itself. But the two events are different because ours is not a conflict between two branches of government. The legal collision was caused by electoral irregularities and failure of some of the election commission's acts to tally with the basic law. We had to face a choice between political expediency and constitutional necessity.

The question was one of asserting the supremacy of the law which, in the public's eye, is tantamount to fighting against crime and bureaucracy.

I am now firmly convinced that we must all abide by laws and the constitution once they are there. Many of our achievements will be lost as soon as we start giving preference to interest, corporate or ethnic groups. But nothing short of strict observance of the law on all levels could help build a democratic society.

Despite the constructive relationship with this and previous parliaments, I had to abide by the law.

To ease tensions, I issued a decree to help the deputies with new employment, protect parliamentary property and resolve other related issues. Vice President Asanbayev takes charge of a state commission designed to handle the issue. None of the deputies will left jobless and all of their pleas will be scrutinized by the commission. [end of interview]

A total of 72 members of the Kazakh parliament went on a three-day warning hunger strike Wednesday in protest against its dissolution by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on March 11. This was reported to Interfax by prominent poet and member of parliament Olzhas Suleimenov.

Three deputies went on hunger strike without a definite time limit earlier.

Suleimenov stressed that the deputies will continue fighting for their rights because they do not consider the parliament dissolved. He said there has been no appropriate decision from the Central Electoral Commission without which the Constitutional Court ruling has no legal force.

On March 6 the Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional the methods of vote-counting and forming electoral districts during the parliamentary elections of March 7, 1994. This made the parliament and all its decisions unlawful.

Meanwhile, a little over 70 of the 177 deputies attended a Wednesday meeting of parliamentary groups. In this context Suleimenov admitted that their decisions have no legal force and are of a political nature. Suleimenov also said that the speaker Abish Kekilbaev is sick while his deputies refused to attend the meeting.

The public figure said deputies were not prevented from holding the meeting, but their activities are being blocked - the working rooms of some deputies have been sealed. They have also been notified that on Wednesday and Thursday they would be dismissed, and on Thursday they must leave their hotels and official apartments, Suleimenov said.

According to him, if deputies are no longer permitted into the parliament building, they will assemble in the Democracy House in Almaty, which houses many political parties.

Suleimenov announced that a group of deputies he heads intends to meet the president to express their disagreement with the dissolution. In his opinion the Constitutional Court became an instrument of political struggle because during the 18 months of its existence it did not make a single serious decision and then unexpectedly grew so bold as to dissolve parliament.

On Wednesday the parliament building's security did not let in journalists.

Parliament Members Begin Hunger Strike

LD1503165795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 15 (Interfax)—A total of 72 members of the Kazakh parliament went on a

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three-day warning hunger strike Wednesday in protest against its dissolution by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on March 11. This was reported to Interfax by prominent poet and member of parliament Olzhas Suleymenov.

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On Wednesday the parliament building's security did not let in journalists.

Central Electoral Commission Resigns

LD1503195795 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan reports: Since the resolution issued by the Constitutional Court on 6 March 1995 has come into force, the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan has sent in its resignation today. President Nursultan Nazarbayev accepted the resignation.

Former MPs Given New Positions, Meet Nazarbayev

LD1503202595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1359 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 15 March—Reports in some foreign media, to the effect that a majority of deputies of the former Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan have categorically rejected the Constitutional Court's decision on the illegitimacy of parliament, are clearly exaggerated. This was confirmed by today's meeting between President Nursultan Nazarbayev and a group of former MPs who have already received new appointments.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned that around 20 former MPs have already been found other jobs.

In a conversation with them the leader of Kazakhstan said that the young state and society is now undergoing a difficult school of democratic renewal. The current development of events has shown, he stressed, that when the people of Kazakhstan come up against difficult problems they are capable of overcoming them in a dignified and civilized manner.

Kyrgyzstan

Partnership Agreement Signed With EU

LD1603095195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0820 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek, 16 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Kyrgyzstan signed a partnership agreement with the European Union. This was reported today by the republican Ministry of Foreign Affairs press service. Local political observers believe this step will facilitate Western investments to the republican economy.

Commission Certifies Election of Deputies

LD1503205995 Bishkek KYRGYZ TUUSU in Kyrgyz 7 Mar 95 p 3

["Resolution by the Central Electoral Commission on the elections and referendums to register deputies to the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Supreme Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission examined the protocol of results of elections of deputies to the Assembly of People's Deputies of the Supreme Council, which were drawn up by constituency electoral commissions. Based on Article 45 of the law on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council, the Central

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Electoral Commission on holding elections and referendums in the Kyrgyz Republic has adopted a resolution. The resolution says that the following deputies were elected to the Assembly of People's Representatives:

Tuygunaaly Duyshonaliyevich Abdraimov, head physician at Issykata district central hospital, from Issikata constituency no.56, Ivanovka, Issikata district, Chuy Region.

Baktybek Dyushenovich Abdrisayev, the head of the international department in Kyrgyz presidential administration, from Jeti Oguz constituency no.14, Bishkek.

Baktybek Tabyldiyevich Abdyldayev, general director of the Jayil joint stock company, from Jayil constituency no.49, Karabalta.

Abdykayim Polotovich Absatarov, chairman of Kadamjay district council, from Karadeben constituency no.27, Kadamjay, Osh Region.

Mamat Maripovich Aibalayev, director of the Kadamjay integrated antimony works. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Kadamjay constituency no.26, Kadamjay Settlement, Osh Region.

Chyngyz Torokulovich Aytmatov, ambassador plenipotentiary and at large of the Kyrgyz Republic to Belgium. Nominated by the Republican People's Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Karabuura constituency no.46, Brussels.

Bulat Akunovich Akkaziyev, general director of the integrated Kyrgyz worsted and cloth joint-stock company, form Osmonkulov constituency no.62, Bishkek.

Taberik Konoyevich Akmatbayev, Kyrgyz deputy minister of trade and industrial material resources, from Issykkul constituency no.15, Bishkek.

Mukambek Kalmamatovich Alykulov, director of power lines enterprise in Osh, from Isanov constituency no.31, Osh.

Turgunbay Anarkulov, chairman of Dzhalalabad Region department of consumers' union. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Mayluusuu constituency no.9, Dzhalalabad.

Gany Bekboyevich Asanaliyev, assistent to the Kyrgyz presidential state sectretary, from Ala Archa constituency no.70, Bishkek.

Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev, chairman of board of Forum scientific industrial company. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Alamudun constituency no.61, Bishkek.

Boris Dmitriyevich Vorobyov, organiser of the Feniks company, from Janyjer constituency no.52, Voyenno Antonovka, Sokuluk District, Chuy Region.

Valery Isidorovich Dil, chairman of Council of Germans in the Kyrgyz Republic. Nominated by the Ata Meken Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Ala Archa constituency no.53, Bishkek.

Orozaly Duyshonovich Dononbayev, director of the integrated grain products works in Tokmok, from Ibraimov constituency no.57, Tokmok.

Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov, chairman of board of the Kashkajol kolkhoz in Karakulja district, Osh Region, from Karakulja constituency no.40, Togotoy, Karakulja district, Osh Region.

Mamatoktor Sadyrbayevich Zairov, deputy director of the Osh production amalgamation for petroleum products, from Kyzylkishtak constituency no.36, Mady, Karasuu District, Osh Region.

Jalgap Iymanbekovich Kazakbayev, general director of integrated mining works in Karabalta. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Karabalta constituency no.48, Karabalta.

Jangoroz Kanimetov, head of Issyk Kul Region department for public education, from Tup constituency no.17, Karakol.

Esenbay Kochkorov, chairman of Lenin kolkhoz in Karasuu district, from Kashkarkyshtak constituency no.39, Nariman, Karasuu district, Osh Region.

Atageldi Kudaiberdiyev, first deputy general director of Dzhalalabad Region's union of agricultural services, from Alabuka constituency no.7, Dzhalalabad.

Kamchybek Kudaibergenov, president of the Kyrgyzmunaizat state joint-stock corporation, from Sokuluk constituency no.51, Bishkek.

Turgunbek Nasipovich Kulmurzayev, general director of the Chuynefteprodukt [Chuy petroleum products] production amalgamation, from Kant constituency no.55, Bishkek.

Mambet Mamakeyev, professor, head of clinical surgery department at the Kyrgyz Medical Institute, from Aksuu constituency no.13, Bishkek.

Muhammadjan Tashaliyevich Mamasaidov, rector of the Kyrgyz-Uzbek Higher Technical College in Osh. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Aravan constituency no.32, Osh.

Anatoly Nikitovich Maryshev, general director of Design and Technological Institute of fodder harvesting machines joint-stock company. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Almaata constituency no.65, Bishkek.

Absamat Masaliyevich Masaliyev, director of Kyrgyz state technical control, from Kyzylkiya constituency no.28, Bishkek.

Almanbet Matubraimov, Kyrgyz first deputy prime minister, from Myrzaake constituency no.42, Bishkek.

Erkinbek Sagynaliyevich Matiyev, general director of the Kyrgyzfarmatsiya state pharmaceutical company, from Archabeshik constituency no.68, Bishkek.

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Bektemir Murzubraimov, rector of the Higher Technological College in Osh, from Bashdeben constituency no.41, Osh.

Dosbala Nur uulu, the head of department at the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, from Batken constituency no.25, Bishkek.

Isa Sheyshenkulovich Omurkulov, chief transport inspector at the Kyrgyz Transport Inspectorate. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Baytik constituency no.54, Bishkek.

Bekmamat Osmonov, temporarily unemployed [recently appointed chairman of Osh regional Council], from Kermetoo constituency no.34, Osh.

Berdibay Primov, president of the Oshpirim joint-stock company, from Alay constituency no.43, Osh.

Joldoshbek Raimbekovich Raimbekov, general director of the Meenet [Labor] production amalgamation under the municipal economy in Bishkek, from Jal constituency no.67, Bishkek.

Asan Raimkulov, chairman of the Panfilov collective peasant farm, from Alykul constituency no.47, Panfilov, Panfilov District, Chuy Region.

Davran Muratovich Sabirov, general director of the Kyrrosgazservis [Kyrgyz-Russian gas service] joint venture, from Akbuura constituency no.33, Osh.

Sharipa Sadybakasova, president of the Kyrgyzstan joint-stock commercial bank. Nominated by the Social Democratic and Agrarian parties of Kyrgyzstan, from Atbashy constituency no.21, Bishkek.

Dastan Islamovich Sarygulov, president of the Kyrgyzaltyn [Kyrgyz gold] state concern, from Kok Oy constituency no.44, Bishkek.

Bekbolot Myrzakasymovich Sultanov, the head of technolgical and transport department in the Kyrgyzneft production amalgamation, from Nooken constituency no.10, Kochkorata, Dzhalalabad Region.

Jenishbek Abdiyevich Tentiyev, general director of the Ilbirs [Snow Leopard] joint-stock company. Nominated by the Republican People's Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Jibek Jol constituency no.63, Bishkek.

Yuruslan Jumanovich Toychubekov, president of the Adil Kyrgyzstan-Switzerland Bank. Nominated by the Republican People's Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Bakayata constituency no.45, Bishkek.

Isa Nasyraliyevich Tokoyev, chairman of Bishkek City Council. Nominated by the Unity Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Botanikalyk constituency no.64, Bishkek.

Malabek Anashevich Toktobolotov, deputy head of financial department in Dzhalalabad, from Aksy constituency no.8, Bazarkorgon district, Dzhalalabad Region.

Savetbek Toktomyshev, rector of Kyrgyz State National University, from Akorgo constituency no.69, Bishkek.

Ergesh Torobayevich Torobayev, director of the power lines enterprise in Dzhalalabad. Nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Barpy constituency no.3, Dzhalalabad.

Emilbek Uzakbayevich Uzakbayev, president of the Kyrgyzayilkomok [Kyrgyz village assistance] joint-stock corporation. Nominated by the Agrarian Party of Kyrgyzstan, from Makmal constituency no.1, Bishkek.

Sultan Isakunovich Urmanayev, director of the Soavto-Issyk Kul motor transport enterprise for international haulage, from Bakykchy constituency no.19, Balykchy.

Turdakun Usubaliyevich Usubaliyev, pensioner, from Kochkor constituency no.22, Bishkek.

Baktiyarjan Azizovich Fattahov, chairman of the state department for antimonopoly policy, from Akjibek constituency no.35, Bishkek.

Vladimir Nikolayevich Shevelev, general director of the Naryngidroenergostroy [Naryn hydropower construction] joint-stock company, from Tashkomur constituency no.6, Karakul.

Abdygany Erkebayev, temporarily unemployed, from Leylek constituency no.24, Osh.

Bayaman Gavusovich Erkinbayev, general director of the Palvan charity fund, from Suzak constituency no.2, Osh.

Askarbek Ermatovich Ermatov, president of the Kyrgyztamakash Kholding [Kyrgyz foodstuff holding] holding company, from Krasnostroitel constituency no.60, Bishkek.

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Markil Ibrayev. Secretary of the Central Electoral Commission Kh. Bakirova. Bishkek, 1 March 1995.

Elections in Karakol Constituency Deemed Invalid

LD1403174895 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Resolution of the Central Electoral Commission on the results of the elections of deputies to the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic held in Karakol Constituency No. 18.

Having examined the outcome of the check on the results of the elections of deputies to the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic held in Karakul constituency No. 18, the Central Electoral Commission notes that during the election campaign, and on the day of the second round of elections on 19 February 1995, several breaches of the law on elections were committed in this constituency.

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In connection with statements received from citizens a check of the electoral [roll] was undertaken. According to the results of the check, the number of citizens who were included on the roll had increased by 2,082 people in comparison with 5 February. Incidents of voting on behalf of family members were recorded.

The uncoordinated acts of the members of the Constituency Electoral Commission themselves resulted in the fact that the protocol of results of elections was drawn up twice. Under the first protocol, which was signed by nine members of the Constituency Electoral Commission and submitted to the Central Electoral Commission on 22 February 1995, the elections were deemed valid, whereas according to the second protocol, which was signed by four members of the constituency commission and submitted to the Central Electoral Commission on 26 February 1995, the elections were deemed invalid.

In view of this, the Central Electoral Commission required the protocols from each of the 26 polling station electoral commissions in the constituency. As a result of summarizing the voting results in each polling station it was discovered that the figures on the results of voting that were in these protocols did not correspond to the figures of the constituency commission. According to the protocols of the polling station electoral commissions, on the whole 49.83 percent of voters took part in the voting.

Considering the above, the Central Electoral Commission for holding referendums and elections in the Kyrgyz Republic decrees:

1. The elections in Karakol Constituency No. 18 are to be deemed invalid, since less than half the voters, who were included on the electoral roll, took part in it.

2. A vote of no confidence is to be given to the Constituency Electoral Commission for breaches committed against the requirements of the law on elections and the certification of results of elections in the constituency.

3. Repeat elections are to be scheduled for 7 May 1995 in this constituency.

[Signed] Markil Ibrayev, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, Central Electoral Commission Secretary Bakirova.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Invites Islamic Conference Chief To Visit

LD1603094195 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The summit meeting of the member-countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], which has been taking place in the city of Islamabad in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has completed its work. A delegation from our republic led by President Emomali Rakhmanov participated in it.

According to reports we have received, President Emomali Rakhmanov had useful discussions and meetings with the heads of a number of countries in the East and with international organizations.

Yesterday he also had talks with Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference. During the meeting Emomali Rakhmanov invited Algabid to Tajikistan. His invitation was accepted with pleasure by Hamid Algabid.

Emomali Rakhmanov also had conversations with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Afghani President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Biography of Islamic Rebirth Movement Leader

LD1503200695 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Russian 0900 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, born 15 March 1947 in the village of (Vakhiyo) in Tavildarinskiy district in the Karetegin valley. He received religious education from his father Mavlana Nuriddin, as well one of the most famous theologians, Mavlavi (Muhammadjon) [words indistinct]. After finishing a secular school he actively worked on his religious education, surrounding himself with [word indistinct] and like-minded persons.

In 1986 after a lengthy investigation by the KGB he was sentenced to 18 months and was sent to [word indistinct] camps. With the arrest of Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the KGB began a fierce campaign against [word indistinct] of religious figures and theologians.

After his release he lived in the Turkmenistan state farm in (Vakhskiy) district. In 1990 he went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. From 1992 he was editor in chief of the official newspaper of the Muslim spiritual administration of Tajikistan, MINBAR-I ISLOM, THE TRIBUNE OF ISLAM. Apart from this, he wrote articles on religious themes, as well as scientific-popular materials based on religion. His teacher and the best religious educational establishment was [word indistinct] of Tajikistan. He was an active participant in all the meetings of the opposition in 1991-1992. He took part in signing a peace agreement between the opposition and [word indistinct] the president's formations [word indistinct] on 20 July 1992.

In March 1993 at the Council of Resistance of Tajikistan Sayed Abdullo Nuri was elected the head of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan.

The charm, honesty, and sharp wit of Sayed Abdullo Nuri attracts the supporters of religious convictions. However, he has never been anti-Russian, considering that the Koran [words indistinct] extremism and nationalism are alien to him. He is creative by nature. He would not even hurt a fly—people who know him well say.

You have listened to a short story from the life of esteemed Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri.

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Uzbekistan

Vote Necessary for Karimov To Continue Work

LD1503141895 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 15 Mar 95 p2

[Unattributed report: "Proceeding From Necessity and World Experience..."]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] By adopting the decision on holding a referendum on the extension of the term of the authorities of President Islam Karimov until the year 2000, the Supreme Assembly has again shown to the world community Uzbekistan's constructive approach in the development of its statehood, relying first and foremost on common sense, the objective requirements of the present time and understanding and broadly using world experience. [passage omitted]

Despite the considerable successes achieved by our republic last year, the situation in some branches of the economy remains difficult. Uzbekistan is a young state with a the burden of unresolved complicated problems. The formation of the institutions for democratic government and the market economy are in full swing. The foreign political situation both in the CIS and in the world is not quite stable, and there are certain tendencies toward a worsening of the situation. And it is in such conditions that priority is always given to firm state power, headed by a competent and decisive leader.

Today Uzbekistan has passed on to the second stage of reforms; the purposes, aims, and tasks of the program were set out in the report of President Islam Karimov at the session of the Supreme Assembly. This is actually a program for forming and developing democratic and market mechanisms and institutions for the next few years. In view of the complexity, gradualness and step-by-step approach for forming mechanisms of democratic self-regulation, the presidential vertical is purposefully forming separate branches of power and ensuring the most effective differentiation of their authorities during the transition period.

It is in this period in the full swing of transformations that it is necessary to extend the term of the president's powers up to the year 2000. Moreover since the main principles, the essence, the basis, and the direction of the transformations are set out by President Islam Karimov. The man who started the work must take it through to its conclusion.

The success of the reforms and the future of Uzbekistan depend first and foremost on the leader. So the decision on holding a referendum is very suitable. It is necessary to emphasize the high legal culture, the legality of adopting the decision and strict consistency within the framework of the constitution which is not often observed on the territory of the former USSR. And the choice of time for holding the referendum is splendidly successful because it coincides with the beginning of the work of the new Supreme Assembly. As the new parliament was formed as a result of the reforms carried out by the president and is aimed at their further development, then this step will give greater dynamism to the transformations being carried out and will speed up their implementation. At the same time it needs certain support and leadership in its activities from the president, as it has insufficient experience of working in the dynamic, constantly changing conditions of the transition period. And in this mutual interest lies the guarantee of close and fruitful cooperation between the president and the parliament.

Karakalpak Parliament Chairman Meets U.S. Ambassador

LD1503144495 Tashkent KHALQ SOZI in Uzbek 15 Mar 95 p1

[Unattributed report: "American Ambassador in Karakalpakstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ubbiniyaz Ashirbekov, deputy chairman of the Uzbek Supreme Council and chairman of the Supreme Council of Karakalpakstan, has received Henry Lee Clarke, American ambassador to Uzbekistan.

Ashirbekov told the guest about the implementation of economic reforms in the Aral Sea area, about social issues, and important measures to improve the ecological situation there.

Henry Lee Clarke visited the Progress language teaching center in the town of Nukus, Karakalpakstan's regional department of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, and the Eltex factory in Ellikqalla district. He also visited Tuproqqal'a, which was the first residence of the ancient people of Khorezm.

Uzbek Farmers Discuss Cotton-Growing Tasks

LD1503192795 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Having stressed the selfless work of our farmers, President Islam Karimov in his speech at the first session of the Supreme Assembly assigned them major tasks. A meeting of workers in the agro-industrial complex was devoted to working out measures to implement these tasks.

On 14 March, a republican meeting of workers in the agro-industrial complex devoted to the development of cotton-growing was held in Tashkent. The meeting was chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Jurabekov.

Agriculture Minister R. Gusanov gave a report on the results of last year and the tasks facing cotton workers.

Our country's cotton workers, who gathered for the meeting on the threshold of Navruz, were acquainted with a draft resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers on creating, as an experiment within the structure of the republic's Agriculture Ministry, agro-industrial firms for

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the production and primary processing of raw cotton, as well as establishing vehicle and tractor fleets in one district in every region.

Cotton growing occupies an important place in the economy of our independent state. Uzbekistan occupies the second place in the world after the United States in terms of cotton exports. That is why it was emphasized at the meeting that the volume of cotton production in our republic will affect the world market. It is known that the republic's leadership has decided it is necessary to reduce to a certain extent the amount of land under cotton by increasing the cotton yield. So are we able to raise the average cotton yield to 30-35 quintals? Participants in the meeting exchanged opinions on taking the necessary measures for this.

And we already have experience in this. Last year, the cotton workers of Bukhara, Khorezm, and Surkhandarya regions achieved an average 30 quintals of raw cotton per hectare. And the 35-37 quintals of cotton per hectare in Gizhduvanskiy, Zhandarskiy, Bukharskiy, Namanganskiy, and Shurchinskiy districts showed that we have major internal reserves. [passage omitted]

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Azerbaijan

Reportage on OPON 'Power Struggle' in Azerbaijan

AFP Details Previous Events

NC1503134695 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Report by Boris Bachorz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, March 15 (AFP)—Azerbaijan plunged into a new power struggle Wednesday [15 March] after the government ordered mutinous elite special forces to be dissolved and sent troops to surround their headquarters outside Baku.

Reports said the troops of the interior ministry special force, known as OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment], had defied an order to surrender their weapons issued Tuesday night by Interior Minister Ramil Usubov.

INTERFAX news agency said OPON forces were holed up with their chief Rovshan Javadov [name as received], the deputy interior minister, at OPON headquarters near Baku, the Azerbaijani capital on the Caspian Sea.

The agency, quoting government troops, said soldiers had moved into position around OPON headquarters overnight.

Usubov announced Tuesday that he had decided to disband OPON in the wake of a mutiny by troops in two northwestern towns near the border with Armenia.

On Monday OPON troops seized several government buildings in Kazakh and Akstafa triggering clashes in which two people were killed and two injured, according to a toll which is still provisional.

The mutineers withdrew from the buildings Monday evening, an Azerbaijani diplomat in Moscow said Wednesday, adding that the situation in Baku remained calm.

On Tuesday night, Usubov went on television to announce the dissolution of OPON "over which the government has lost all control and who have joined up with criminal gangs."

OPON commanders said the dissolution order was "unlawful" and claimed they were victims of a "provocation" by the interior ministry which has accused OPON troops of engaging in smuggling "strategic" raw materials, notably copper.

An interior ministry source said OPON troops had mutinied in protest at government efforts to stop their illegal activities.

OPON leaders meanwhile called for the resignations of Javadov and of parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev and for a special session of parliament to be convened to discuss the row.

The latest spat in the volatile former Soviet republic, seems like an exact replay of incidents last October when OPON forces staged a rebellion after being accused of involvement in the murders of three close aides of President Geydar Aliyev.

Two days later, the then-prime minister Suret Guseynov seized on the unrest to try to unseat Aliyev in an abortive coup launched from his powerbase of Ganja, 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Baku.

The coup was crushed by Aliyev, a former Soviet politburo member who has ruled the oil-rich republic of 7.5 million people with an iron fist since 1993.

The OPON mutiny reflects the continuing tension in Azerbaijan despite a fragile truce concluded last May in the long-running conflict with the Armenians over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave fighting to secede from Azerbaijan.

The OPON mutiny prompted Aliyev to cancel a trip to Islamabad for a regional economic cooperation summit which opened there Monday.

Riots Said Criminal, Not Political

MK1503134095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Andrey Smirnov: "Situation in Azerbaijan. Nonferrous Metals as Basis for Mutiny"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To judge from yesterday's reports, Azerbaijan's authorities are in full control of the situation in the republic's northeast. According to Azerbaijan MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] reports, it became possible to settle the conflict as a result of negotiations with the Special-Purpose Police Detachment (OPON) group who 13 March captured the buildings of the administrations and police departments of Akstaf and Kazakh rayons.

According to the official version of Azerbaijan's MVD, the OPON mutiny is not related in any way to the political situation in the republic. And this is the absolute truth. The case in point is rather of plain crime, or more precisely a case of smuggling and divvying up the pie between various power clans. As MVD head Ramil Ushubov stated, "the OPON men's illegal actions" were sparked by the law enforcement organs' detaining several trucks with 150 tonnes of copper in Gyandzha. According to the MVD, some "commercial structure was trying to take the freight outside the republic illegally." The contraband was carried under OPON members' guard. This suggests the idea that participation in the racket by some state structures justly caused the ire of other state structures which were either denied their share or were not consulted. Failing to protect the freight, the OPON members turned to politics and went on to prove their point to the local administration with the aid of arms. In the towns of Kazakh and Akstaf, they occupied the buildings of the regional administrations,

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local directorates of the Security Ministry, the police, and the post offices. Moreover, the "law-abiding smugglers" took possession of armored vehicles in one of the nearest military units. As a result of the skirmish in Akstaf between OPON members and police, two men were killed and several wounded.

The incident is very reminiscent of the one in Baku early last October. At that time, OPON members led by Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Rovshan Dzhavadov invaded the building of the general prosecutor's office and demanded the dismissal of the general prosecutor, the MVD head, and the parliament speaker. Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev first defined the OPON's actions as an attempted coup and imposed a state of emergency in the capital. But when Dzhavadov's mutiny was superimposed by another mutiny—by Premier Guseynov in Gyandzha—he made peace with the former mutineer against the latter. Moreover, Dzhavadov's demands were recognized (literally on the second day) as quite just and a considerable part of them were met: "gone" was the general prosecutor, and Dzhavadov was left in his position. Guseynov has been on the lam ever since. Curiously, it is same Dzhavadov who now leads the government delegation in the talks with OPON who staged riots in Kazakh and Akstaf, and he of course easily persuaded the OPON men to vacate the captured buildings. One thing is unclear yet—the future of the 150 tonnes of copper, which remain undivided.

Rebels Move Northward

NC1503153995 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1250 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We are bringing you the reports and video recordings received over the last few hours. As already reported, the criminal situation has become aggravated in the Kazakh and Akstafa regions in recent days. The staff of the Special Purpose Police Detachment [Hususi Tayinatli Polis Destesi—OPON] assigned in this region attacked the buildings housing the government organs and disrupted their activities.

To prevent fratricide and bloodshed, government representatives are taking measures to stabilize the situation in those regions. Operations are being conducted and talks are being held to ensure public order and security and to detain and prosecute those involved in the crime. We now present our special correspondent Ahmed Kadiroglu's interview with the local people on the situation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified citizen] We have one enemy. All our forcers should be united and turned against the enemy. The Armenians have occupied more than 20 percent of our territory and we have more than 1 million refugees. [words indistinct]. As you can see, the population in Kazakh and its leadership approve of the president's foreign and domestic policies and express their support for him. There cannot be any talk of a coup d'etat here. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified citizen] Blood is being shed here. Mothers are crying. The dead on both sides are all our children. I request an investigation into this incident. [words indistinct] There cannot be any talk of coup d'etat. There is no political movement against the regional administration. However, an end should be put to this [word indistinct]. We have a common enemy. We should fight against the Armenians, yet we are in conflict among ourselves.

[Halil Halilov, Kazakh regional police chief] A group of masked citizens launched an armed attack on the police department at around 0430 on 13 March. They disarmed our colleagues there and seized the arms from the guard room. All those involved in this incident are known to us. An investigation will pass the final verdict. However, I want to inform you that there was no such thing as a coup d'etat here. On the same day, the people held a rally and expressed its view on this issue.

As you know, Kazakh is a border region. It has a 172-km border with Armenia. Kazakh is functioning normally and the public supports and defends the leadership's measures. Rumors about a coup d'etat are baseless.

[Speaker] To provide the latest information, we established telephone contact with Akstafa and Kazakh executive administrations.

[Jivanshir Abbasov, head of Akstafa regional administration] The following measures taken by our troops, OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment, identical with OPON] members were forced to retreat towards Kazakh. Damage was caused to our settlements. There were a number of injured among the civilians. They are being treated at the hospital. At present, the situation is calm, stable, and normal in Akstafa. Everything is functioning normally. People are at work; there is no grievance by the people. Our administrative institutions are in place and functioning. Angered by this movement, the people are holding a general rally. I personally and in the name of Akstafa residents demand the punishment of the criminals. Akstafa residents should and will pronounce their own verdict.

[Memmedov, assistant head of Kazakh regional administration] Although the situation is relatively calm, the tension is continuing. The position held by them previously has been destroyed. That is the position held by OMON members. Now they are in the direction of (?Cheshit) and Kazakh. At present, most of them are moving in the direction of Georgia. [words indistinct] The situation is peaceful. [end recording]

OPON Rejects Call To Surrender

LD1503155295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Mar 15 (INTERFAX)—The situation remains calm in Baku in spite of a further confrontation in one of the city districts between government troops and a riot police force (OPON) after it

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rejected Interior Minister Ravil Usubov's order to surrender weapons Tuesday [14 March].

Usubov accused OPON of getting out of hand and forming a conspiracy with the criminal underworld.

In a Wednesday radio interview, the minister described his move as both justified and necessary saying he would no longer tolerate OPON as part of the ministry.

The conflict was high on the agenda of a senior police officials' meeting on Wednesday with Usubov leaving to meet President Geydar Aliyev afterwards, ministry sources said.

There has been no change at the OPON base deployed in a city district since last night, one source reported. Government troops were moved to the base and several crack units took positions in adjacent buildings, OPON members say.

Makhri Dzhavadov (the brother of Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Dzhavadov who is virtually in charge of the force) told INTERFAX Wednesday afternoon that negotiation was now under way between OPON commanders and the authorities. However, he believes the government is using the talks as a red herring.

"Its main aim is to try to remove myself and my brother from the political arena", he said. Himself a former district prosecutor in Baku, Makhri Dzhavadov now leads an independent union of free entrepreneurs.

The situation in the country worsened two days ago after OPON members took control of government and police buildings in the administrative centers of Akstafa and Kazakh in the northwest. Two people were killed and many injured during violent clashes in Akstafa.

In a letter to the Azeri president, Makhri Dzhavadov described the conflict as a provocative act orchestrated by Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev and Interior Minister Ramil Usubov.

In an interview with INTERFAX, he said OPON would demand an emergency parliament session to discuss the situation and dismiss both the speaker and interior minister.

Rebel Force Suppressed, Casualties Reported

NC1503203695 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Statement by Azerbaijani defense and interior ministers—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The units of the Kazakh Rayon's Special Purpose Police Detachment [OPON], which for a long time was engaged in the smuggling of narcotics material, contraband trade, and arms dealing and had become (?uncontrollable), launched an armed attack against one of the military units of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry and seized military hardware on the night of 12-13 March 1995. Later on, this bandit group also seized a large amount of arms from the Interior Ministry's departments in Kazakh and Akstafa rayons. They also freed 25 prisoners from Akstafa's investigatory isolation ward. These prisoners joined the criminals. The state organs in these rayons were also occupied. As a result, the situation became worse in the region. [words indistinct] The armed unit disrupted the peace in the rayon and displayed their aggressive intentions against the state organs.

First Deputy Interior Minister of the Republic Colonel [name indistinct], [title and name indistinct], and the representatives of the Kazakh and Akstafa executive committees held a series of meetings with the leaders of this criminal group and told them that their actions are illegal and called on them to refrain from taking additional criminal steps. However, all these produced no positive result. Rather, on the night of 14-15 March, they raided [word indistinct] Defense Ministry's military unit in Tauz with the aim of occupying the executive administrations in Tauz and Ganja. The military unit, which was alerted by an alarm, repelled the attack by the bandits and [words indistinct] recovered the formerly seized military hardware. The bandit group was suppressed. [Words indistinct] are being identified and relevant measures are being taken. There were casualties. According to the preliminary reports, three government troops died and 13 were injured.

At present the government troops are in full control of the situation in Tauz, Akstafa, and Kazakh rayons. The state organs are functioning normally. The people's security has been ensured. [words indistinct] (?the citizens) there have expressed their indignation against the criminal objectives of the (?bandits) and are fully supporting the measures being taken by the state organs.

Rebel Police Storm Government Building

LD1503202495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received an unexpected report from Azerbaijan. Personnel from a special purpose police detachment stormed an administrative building in a district of Baku, but were repulsed by forces loyal to the government. Two of the attacking policemen were killed.

These policemen are from a special purpose detachment that has already been insubordinate several times, claiming to be an independent force. They have for a long time practically been the personal detachment of Deputy Interior Minister Dzhavadov. Dzhavadov has now been removed from this post.

Forces loyal to the government have blockaded the special purpose police detachment's main base 8 km from Baku. Dzhavadov is at this base. A government decree has been issued on disbanding and disarming the detachment, but in reply Dzhavadov has called the authors of this decree enemies of the people and refused to obey the order of his interior minister.

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Dzhavadov and his supporters today declared their intention to make President Aliyev and Parliament Speaker Guliyev resign. At present the special police detachment's headquarters are giving out weapons to anyone who wishes to fight on the detachment's side. The detachment's command claims that military units from Lenkoran District and Nakhichevan have come out in support of them.

Talks With Rebel Police Break Up

LD1503194995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku March 15 TASS—Talks between Azerbaijani authorities and a rebel anti-riot police broke up at 18:00 on Wednesday [15 March] after 30 of its former members made an abortive attempt to storm the police headquarters in the Nizaminskiy district of the Azerbaijani capital Baku.

As a result, two rebels were killed and one wounded.

According to the Defence and Interior Ministries, the situation in the Kazakh, Akstafinskiy and Tauz districts of Azerbaijan is fully under control of the Azerbaijani authorities.

Armoury seized by rebels as a result of an attack on a military unit has been recaptured. Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev relieved Rovshan Dzhavadov, commander of the Azerbaijani anti-riot police, OPON, of his duties as deputy interior minister.

Earlier today, the Azerbaijani ambassador in Moscow told ITAR-TASS via telephone that he hoped that the conflict would end without bloodshed and that "the continuing talks between the republic's leadership and the OPON Commander Rovashan Dzhavadov will end peacefully."

OPON demanded it would no longer obey the orders of the Interior Ministry on March 13 after Azerbaijani law enforcement bodies had seized 150 tonnes of copper that was being smuggled out of Azerbaijan and guarded by Kazakh district OPON policemen.

The situation in Baku deteriorated after the leaders of the special police unit threatened to march on Baku and to force President Geydar Aliyev and Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev to step down.

The rebels numbered 3,000. They gathered at their headquarters eight kilometers from Baku orchestrates by their commander Dzhavadov.

According to reports, the rebels were distributing firearms among their supporters, calling for a change of the country's leadership and establishment of a coalition government.

Earlier today, the Azerbaijani interior minister ordered the OPON's disbandment and urged its members to turn in their guns and armoured vehicles. The order signed by the minister said that the anti-riot police "patronised some Mafia-like structures and have become practically uncontrollable."

In response, the rebels staged a number of "acts of retaliation" in the Kazakh, Akstafinskiy and Tauz districts of Azerbaijan, where they seized several administrative buildings, including police and security service headquarters, and communications facilities.

The rebels also got hold of 352 Kalashnikov assault rifles, 269 handguns and 12 grenades, plus several armoured vehicles seized as a result of an attack on a military unit and six sub-machine guns and several pistols in an attack on a railway police post near Tauz. Casualties among law enforcement officers were reported in all three incidents.

President Aliyev urgently summoned the leaders of law enforcement agencies, the public prosecutor and the defence minister to discuss ways to stop the rebels. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against their leader.

OPON Commander Demands Aliyev Resignation

LD1503202295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1947 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Mar 15 (Interfax)—The commander of a special purpose police squad [OPON], Deputy Interior Minister Colonel Rovshan Dzhavadov, has demanded the resignation of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and his staff and a special parliamentary session to consider the situation in Baku.

The situation in one of Baku districts sharply deteriorated when government troops confronted insurgent policemen. Azerbaijani Interior Minister Ravil Usubov has issued an order to disarm the unit which, he said, became "virtually uncontrollable." However, the squad refused to obey the order.

Dzhavadov and his squad demanded a state council be created to govern the country. They said they will not allow any compromise with the authorities.

In his televised speech, Aliyev read out a decree to relieve Dzhavadov of his duties as deputy interior minister.

At around 20:30 (Moscow time) on Wednesday, Aliyev began a live televised address to the republic's people.

Aliyev Appeals For Unity, Solidarity

LD1503215995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2105 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdulayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 15 Mar—"Once again Azerbaijan is on the brink of civil war," Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev said in his appeal to the Azerbaijani people on national television late tonight. He said this has been

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caused by the illegal actions of Rovshan Dzhavadov, former deputy interior minister of the republic, and the special purpose police detachment (OPON) which he heads. As a result, blood has already been shed.

"Dzhavadov was connected with the putschists, who attempted to stage a coup d'etat in Azerbaijan last October," Aliyev stated. "He was forgiven, but unfortunately he did not realize his mistakes and became a hostage to his own ambitions."

Aliyev said that the former deputy minister is demanding the resignation of the president and the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, threatening to seize power by force and kill the head of state. "Certain forces, which include quite a few criminals, are massing at the OPON base in a residential area of Nizaminskiy rayon eight km from the center of Baku. They are armed and present a considerable danger to the Azerbaijani state," the president noted.

Geydar Aliyev refuted rumors spread by Dzhavadov's supporters about their seizure of power in a number of rayons of the republic. He claimed that the authorities are in control of the situation everywhere. In Kazakhskiy rayon, where the events began three days ago, 50 rebels were arrested, and tonight the law enforcement bodies are completely eliminating the destablizing forces there, the president reported.

He stressed that, despite the complexity of the situation, he is prepared right up to the end to use political means to settle the conflict. Aliyev urged all members of the disbanded OPON, who had gathered at their base, to lay down their arms tonight and surrender to the authorities, in which case their safety would be guaranteed. Otherwise, the president warned, measures based on the full severity of the law will be taken against them.

In his appeal Geydar Aliyev urged the Azerbaijani people to unity and national civilian solidarity, stating that only in this way can statehood be preserved and the country's security be ensured.

Situation Remains 'Complicated'

LD1603084995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The situation in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, where a coup attempt was staged, remained complicated last night and today in the morning, a spokesman for the staff of the Azeri president told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

The spokesman neither confirmed, nor refuted reports saying that last night the forces loyal to the president made an abortive attempt to capture the barracks of the rebel special police force (OPON) by assault.

The situation in Azerbaijan dramatically worsened last Monday, when commanders of the special police force announced that they would force president Geydar Aliyev and Chairman of parliament Rasul Guliyev to resign.

The special police force is 3,000 men strong. It was under the command of Deputy Interior Minister of Azerbaijan Rovshan Dzhavadov, who was removed from that post by President Aliyev on Wednesday.

Geydar Aliyev came up with a TV address to the nation on Wednesday night, ITAR-TASS correspondents report from Baku. "Azerbaijan is again on the brink of a civil war," he said. The president blamed Rovshan Dzhavadov for the dramatic worsening of the situation. According to Aliyev, Dzhavadov staged a coup attempt last October. "That time he was forgiven, but, unfortunately, he did not come to realise how wrong he was and became a hostage of his own ambitions," the president added.

According to Aliyev, "some forces, including numerous criminals, are being concentrated at the base of the special police force in the Nizami district, eight kiolmetres away from the centre of Baku. They are armed, and they pose a serious threat to the Azeri state."

Aliyev refuted rumours, circulated by Dzhavadov's supporters, that they allegedly seized power in some regions of the Republic. According to Aliyev, the authorities are keeping the situation under control on the whole of the Azeri territory. Fifty rebels were arrested in the Kazakh region, where the developments started three days ago, and tonight law enforcement agencies will fully eliminate destbilizing forces there, the president said.

He stressed that although the situation was really complicated, he was ready to use to the full political methods of settling the conflict. Aliyev urged all men of the disbanded special police force, who gathered at their base, to lay down arms and surrender to the authorities. In this case their security will be guaranteed. Otherwise, the president warned, strict measures in acordance with the law will be taken against them.

President: Brink of 'Civil War'

NC1603083895 Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, March 16 (AFP)—Azerbaijan is on the brink of "civil war", its leader Geydar Aliyev has warned as a standoff between loyalist troops and mutinous police special forces entered its second day Thursday [16 March].

The country "is once again bordering on civil war", Aliyev said in a televised appeal Wednesday night after two people were killed in clashes between soldiers and police mutineers in Baku, the capital, according to Azerbaijani radio monitored in Moscow.

Interior ministry special forces known as OPON were holed up Thursday in their base outside Baku, surrounded by the army.

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OPON commander, Rovshan Javadov [name as received] who was sacked Wednesday from his job as deputy interior minister after challenging a move to disband OPON, was still in control of the base Thursday, his brother Makhir told Interfax news agency.

Makhir, quoted by Interfax, said the government had lost control of entire regions of northern Azerbaijan, a claim denied by Aliyev.

On television, Aliyev accused Rovshan Javadov of having been involved in an attempted coup by mutinous security forces last October.

"Javadov was involved with the conspirators who tried to stage a coup in Azerbaijan last October. He was pardoned but to my regret he failed to realise his mistakes and has fallen a prey to his own ambition," Aliyev said.

Makhir and Rovshan Javadov played a key role in the October coup together with Prime Minister Suret Guseynov who was subsequently fired.

Aliyev said Javadov had called on the president and the speaker of parliament to step down and had threatened to seize power by force and murder the head of state, ITAR-TASS reported.

"The forces concentrated in the OPON base in the residential suburb of Nisami eight kilometres (five miles) from central Baku are heavily armed and represent a threat to the state of Azerbaijan," said Aliyev who cancelled Wednesday a planned trip to Islamabad.

Aliyev said his troops were in control of the country however he admitted that "about 50 rebels" had been arrested earlier in the week at Kazakh in the northwest.

He said loyalist security forces were working to "liquidate destabilising forces".

Aliyev, a former Soviet politburo member said he was prepared to negotiate on condition the mutineers laid down their arms.

OPON Denies Disarmament in Akstafa

LD1603094495 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Azerbaijan's western regions of Kazakhskiy and Akstafinskiy and also in Baku remains tense. A TURAN agency correspondent has reported that on Wednesday evening units of the internal troops and of the Azerbaijani spetsnaz completed the disarmament of a rebel OPON [special police unit] grouping in Akstafa. However, some OPON members managed to get to neighboring Georgia. Sources at the OPON headquarters denied this report.

TURAN Updates Situation

NC1603120695 Baku TURAN in English 0954 GMT 16 Mar 95

["Operation on Disarmament of the OPON in the West of Azerbaijan Is Over"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 15) TURAN—By 16.30 the divisions of the internal troops and the special divisions completed the operation on disarmament the "rebel" grouping of OPON (the special subdivisions of police) in the west of Azerbaijan. Part of OPON has left for the territory of Georgia and the other part was disarmed by the authorities. 29 members of OPON yielded themselves to authorities. Two tanks, 5 military hard units, 1 zenit plant "SHilka" were confiscated from them. According to preliminary information there are tens of killed and wounded. An investigation of the events began.

After the conflict with governmental troops on March 12, OPON seized the administrative buildings in Akstafa and Kazakh regions and blocked the activity of the authorities in that region. OPON's leaders Rovshan Javadov [name as received] demanded the resignation of the President and the speaker of the parliament.

Aliyev To Address Nation 'Tonight'

LD1603110195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 16 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Shulman and Sevindzh Abdullayeva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku March 16 TASS—It looks like that in spite of President Geydar Aliyev's demand, units of the rebel OPON special police forces are not going to lay down arms. Their base in the Nizamiy district, five miles off the Azeri capital, is surrounded by troops loyal to President Geydar Aliyev.

Military and police are patrolling streets in Baku setting up reinforced check-points on crutial road junctions.

The government refused to confirm media reports that an attempt to storm the OPON base outside Baku was undertaken overnight.

Also sieged by government troops is an apartment bloc downtown Baku where opon commander Rovshan Dzhavadov's brother Makhir is reportedly staying guarded by several dozens of his armed supporters.

In his televised appeal to the nation on Wednesday night, President Geydar Aliyev said that Rovshan and Makhir Dzhavadov were "involved with the conspirators who tried to stage a coup in Azerbaijan last October".

Competent sources told ITAR-TASS that President Aliyev met today chiefs of republican law enforcement bodies and is going to address the nation through television once more tonight.

Georgia

Ardzinba Ready To 'Invigorate' Talks With Georgia

LD1503212595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2103 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—The process of political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is moving very slowly because

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Georgia keeps on trying to sidetrack from the principles laid out in the April 4, 1994, statement on measures to achieve political settlement in Abkhazia, Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba said.

"Under the document, the Abkhazian and Georgian sides act as equal parties which have assumed the obligation to restore the severed state and legal relations between Georgia and Abkhazia on this basis," Ardzinba told the national news agency on Tuesday [14 March].

"Pursuant to these principles, we are ready to invigorate the negotiating process and sign a bilateral agreement on further state and legal relations between us," he added.

The Abkhazian leader also said that he is ready to renew the orderly return of refugees. In his view, "the easing of the border regime on the River Psou could facilitate the resolution of this problem and increase the number of refugees returning in an orderly manner."

"The closure of the border prevents food and other basic necessities from reaching the population there," he said.

Ardzinba also stressed the "need for international organisations to provide economic assistance to Abkhazia and for unconditional end to acts of terrorism and sabotage in the Gali District carried out by Georgian armed groups."

"We hope that our proposals will meet understanding in the U.N., the Russian Federation and the OSCE, and that they will support us on that," he said.

Radical Opposition Supports Chechnya Independence

AU1603122695 Tbilisi IBERIA-SPEKTRI in Georgian 27 Feb 95 p 12

["Statement by the 'Round Table-Free Georgia' Association of Georgian Political Parties and Organizations on the Necessity of Recognizing the Republic of Chechnya as an Independent State"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The processes currently taking place in the Republic of Chechnya are clearly recognized as the genocide of the Chechen people. According to the Russian mass media, as a result of the operation conducted by the Russian Federation's Army "to restore constitutional order," 25,000 people have been killed and 200,000 have been made refugees. Thus after two months of war, more than one-fifth of the population have become refugees or been killed. The continuation of hostilities will of course result in no fewer casualties and, if the fighting does not stop, we will be faced with the complete genocide of the Chechen people within a year.

The problem arises as a result of the following circumstances:

A) It is the will of the Chechen people to create an independent state.

B) In accordance with the Helsinki Act, the inviolability of a country's borders represents a commitment for the countries that are parties to it and the UN Charter compels these countries to uphold the obligations stipulated in the act. On account of these circumstances and in accordance with the norms of international law, the recognition of the Republic of Chechnya—"Ichkeria"—as an independent state would be a violation of these norms.

C) According to the norms of international law, genocide is strictly forbidden. The definition of genocide does not provide for any justification of genocide; on the contrary, it calls for severe sanctions against those perpetrating it. The UN Charter calls for the implementation of such sanctions from those countries that have assumed this commitment in accordance with the corresponding acts.

As we can see, a paradoxical situation is being created: Point B above protects Russia's interests, in particular it makes it impossible to recognize Chechnya's independence. On the other hand, Point C blames Russia for the genocide of the Chechen people. It is significant that these two circumstances have come about as a result of the fact mentioned in Point A.

In the event that the aforementioned norms of international law are strictly obeyed, we obtain the following results:

1. The complete genocide of the Chechen people! However, in this case, the Helsinki Act will be upheld!

2. Sanctions in line with the norms of international law will be taken against Russia for carrying out the genocide of the Chechen people and, in this way, the UN acts on genocide will be observed. Given that such a paradoxical result is unacceptable, it is a question of searching for a solution. The problem is rendered more complex by the fact that current international law does not provide us with a solution.

The concept of justice exists in any law as well as in international law. A law can be just for some and unjust for others. The justice of modern law is based on the principle that it recognizes the supremacy of the individual. In the case of the events in Chechnya, it is unable to uphold the supremacy of the individual; on the contrary, it involuntarily protects those perpetrating the genocide of the nation. As a result of all this, the struggle for independence appears to us almost as something criminal.

It should be pointed out that there is no absolute law. Every law is relative and is based upon certain principles (a system of hypotheses). No law exists in which each act is taken into account and classified as either criminal or not. No law remains unchanged. It is possible that, for a certain period of time, legal norms were not mutually exclusive but, as a result of new actions arising over time, it is wholly possible that these norms have come into

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conflict with one another. In this case, principles (hypotheses) of law are being changed and clarified and, correspondingly, mutually exclusive norms are being rectified.

The events in Chechnya show that modern international law contains contradictory norms and it needs to be revised in principle.

As a result of all this, we state that:

A) There is only one way of ensuring the physical survival of the Chechen nation: By recognizing the independence of the Republic of Chechnya—"Ichkeria."

B) The recognition of the independence of the Republic of Chechnya—"Ichkeria"—cannot be viewed as a violation of the norms of international law as nonrecognition signifies the promoting of genocide, which, in turn, is a crime according to the norms of international law.

C) The action of those states that recognize the independence of the Republic of Chechnya—"Ichkeria" should not be viewed by the UN as a violation of international law, as the necessity of introducing changes to international law is on the agenda. The introduction of such changes becomes normal when we are faced with a fact determining the necessity of these changes.

Academy of Sciences Linked to NATO Computer

MM1603100695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "NATO Helping Georgian Scientists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian Academy of Sciences' computer system will be linked up to the NATO computer network, POSTFACTUM has been told by Zurab Abashidze, Georgian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Benelux countries and the EU.

The cost of the project, which is to be funded by NATO, will be $250,000.

Implementation of the project will make it possible for Georgian scientists to keep abreast of any innovations in the world scientific process.

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Estonia

Russian Border Commander Pleased With Visit

LD1503151095 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Russian Federal Border Service, headed by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, the head of the service, has been on a three-day visit to Estonia. Marit Pukk went along to the news conference that followed the visit:

[Pukk] During his visit, Mr. Nikolayev was received also by Estonian President Lennart Meri. He had a meeting with Interior Minister Kaido Kama and held talks with a delegation of the Estonian Border Guard Department, led by Captain Tarmo Kouts, the department's director general. The delegations discussed issues to do with the activity of Estonian and Russian border guard units as well as a simplified border crossing procedure across the Estonian- Russian border for residents of border areas. A protocol was signed, on joint activity of Estonian and Russian border guard units. On the matter of a simplified border crossing procedure for residents of border areas, a draft protocol was agreed upon. This will next go to relevant structures in both countries for endorsement, then it will be amended and submitted for signing.

The delegations also discussed and endorsed a plan for working meetings between the Russian Federation and Estonian border guard departments this year. In addition to bilateral cooperation, the creation of multipartite contacts in the Baltic Sea region will continue.

Tarmo Kouts, the head of the Estonian border guards, noted that this meeting was the fourth of its kind. In November of last year a cooperation protocol was signed in Helsinki; it determined the general direction of Estonian and Russian cooperation on guarding borders. The visit concluded just now served as continuation and specification to this work. Here is Andrey Nikolayev, the head of the Russian Federal Border Service.

[Begin Nikolayev recording, in Russian fading into Estonian translation] The meeting in Tallinn between border guard departments, which took place due to decision between the two states' leadership, proceeded successfully on the whole. The meeting between the two countries' border guard department heads in Tallinn was successful. The tasks set before the visit—to develop cooperation between the Estonian and Russian border guards in such violations of the law as the narcotics business, organized crime, illegal immigration, weapon contraband and similar—have been met. Cooperation has reached a new stage. [end recording]

Andrey Nikolayev also noted that it is life itself that calls for such cooperation because crime is international by nature. This makes crime-fighting forces also to come together. Andrey Nikolayev acknowledges with pleasure that cooperation between Estonian and Russian border guard departments progresses vigorously despite differences of opinion at the top political level, on the issue of the location of the Estonian-Russian border.

Finally, the Russian Federal Border Service head spoke also about the Russian Security Council having adopted a resolution some time ago on introducing a Russian citizen's passport, to replace the red [ex-]USSR passport. In this connection the issues to do with the thousands of persons living in Estonia who so far are without citizenship should find a resolution.

Russian-Estonian Border Protocol Signed

LD1503184295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Director General of the Estonian Border Defense Department Tarmo Kouts and Head of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service Andrey Nikolayev signed a protocol regulating the activities of the two countries' border guards in Tallinn today.

Kouts and Nikolayev told a news conference after the signing ceremony that Estonia and Russia had also coordinated a draft protocol on an interim regime for simplified crossing of the Russian-Estonian border by residents of the two countries.

Nikolayev said he had proposed that the agreement on cooperation between Finnish, Estonian and Russian border guard services, signed in Helsinki last year, be enlarged with all Baltic Sea countries possibly joining the agreement. Nikolayev said Estonia had been proposed to take part in the Putina-95 operation carried out by the Russian Federal Border Guard Service and the Zapad-95 planned strategic military command exercise. Kouts said Estonia would decide on the issue later.

Paldiski's Environmental Problems Behind Gore's Trip

MM1503130995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 7

[Report by Galina Sapozhnikova: "Gore Passes Through in a Flash of 'Green' Lightning"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn—U.S. Vice President Al Gore paid a six-hour lightning visit to Tallinn on Monday [13 March]. The official pretext for his visit was the signing of an unobjectionable treaty on cooperation in the sphere of environmental conservation, but on Sunday the prime ministers of all three Baltic states converged on Tallinn.

Something else can in fact be read into Gore's unobjectionable concern for the state of the Estonian environment: The American side is apparently increasingly interested in the natural environment in the region of the city of Paldiski—a former Soviet submarine fleet base

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now inefficiently standing empty. The Americans are allocating $2 million to the restoration of the city's ecology.

In the afternoon, Al Gore went out onto Tallinn's Parliament Square to meet with the people. "Help us join NATO!"—so said a placard being waved by a gray-haired regular at all the local pickets and demonstrations. Gore gave an assurance that there is no privileged list for admitting the post-socialist countries to NATO and that the bloc's expansion is not directed against Russia's interests. He also said that Estonia could become a model of toleration for the whole world on the question of granting citizenship and involving Russians in public and political life. "Maybe he has misunderstood things?" the Russians asked in amazement—those who, because of their lack of Estonian citizenship, cannot get jobs or travel outside the country. "...What he had in mind was that we must not quarrel with Russia and the Russians," the Estonians emotively interpreted his words. But he just smiled enigmatically, straightened his green scarf, and took off.

Toome Likely To Avoid Jail on Corruption Charge

MM1603115295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Architect of Estonian Perestroyka Escapes With Fine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn—The trial of Indrek Toome for bribery has begun at Tallinn City Court. Toome headed the government in 1988-1990. This is the first time in Estonian history that a prime minister—albeit a former one—has found himself in the dock.

IZVESTIYA has already reported on Toome's arrest. He was arrested when presenting 30,000 krooni to a security police officer. Toome was trying to buy passports for his partner and his wife and daughter. The police confiscated the documents, suspecting their holders of having obtained Estonian citizenship with false applications.

The scandal involving the former Communist Party ideology secretary, the deputy chairman and chairman of the government, and the now very successful architect of capitalist-style perestroyka was very conveniently timed for the start of the parliamentary elections. By arresting Toome the government declared its intention to put a stop to corruption and simultaneously stopped granting citizenship to non-Estonians—in order to reverify the documents they had supplied. It was a warning shot across the bows of all "former" people who are again striving to run the state.

Indrek Toome stands charged under Point 165 of the Criminal Code. At worst he faces a fine or two years' imprisonment. Incidentally, everyone realizes that jails are not for people like this. All the more so as the parliamentary elections are over. The prime minister and minister of internal affairs, who declared war on corruption, are leaving. The "former" men have come back to power. Consequently, the worst that Toome can expect is a fine. And even that is uncertain. Indrek Toome is being defended by Estonia's most prestigious defense attorney—Simon Levin—who never loses an argument with the prosecutors....

Latvia

Riga Seeks To Improve Relations With Russia

LD1503214995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1936 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga March 15 TASS—Latvia's intention to normalize its relations with Russia should not be used as a ground for attempts to re-integrate this Baltic state into the CIS or Russian society, the Latvian foreign minister said on Wednesday [15 March].

Valdis Birkavs laid a special emphasis on this issue when speaking on the national radio on the eve of parliamentary debates over the country's foreign policy concept.

The minister pointed to attempts at re-integration both in Russia's foreign policy line and in remarks by its officials. Thus, he quoted First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin as calling for the involvement of the Baltic states into the CIS anti-aircraft defence system.

Birkavs said he had notified U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore about these dangerous trends during their meeting in Tallinn on Monday. Detailed instruction on this issue have been sent to Latvian ambassadors in many foreign countries.

The concept to be discussed in the Sejm (parliament) on Thursday reads that Latvia "should maintain normal relations with Russia", based on international law and mutually beneficial cooperation. With this in view, the Latvian President's Adviser for International Affairs, Aivars Markovs, asks a question in today's issue of the DIENA newspaper: "Why do we reject beforehand good-neighbourly relations with Russia?"

Saeima Passes Laws Favoring Foreign Investors

LD1403154495 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Latvian Saeima has introduced a number of amendments to the law on foreign investments. This has become necessary because on 1 April, Latvia will abolish the tax on profits and replace it with a tax levied from all types of enterprises, including those with foreign capital.

Enterprises with foreign capital which are going to be registered in Latvia before 1 April 1995 will retain a number of favorable conditions even when the tax on profits is abolished. Enterprises with a foreign capital of up to $1 million will not have to pay income tax for two years once they start making a profit, while for the

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following three years, they will only have to pay tax on 50 percent of their income. These conditions will be extended to three and five years respectively for enterprises with more than 1 million in foreign capital.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Urges Boycott of Moscow Ceremonies

WS1603095395 Tallinn BNS in English 1700 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 15, BNS—If the Baltic presidents are indeed determined either to go to Moscow all together or none, Estonia could save Lithuania's honor, Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis said Wednesday [15 March].

Landsbergis was referring to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's invitation for the three Baltic leaders to attend celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the victory against Nazism.

The opposition leader noted at a press conference that Estonian President Lennart Meri "categorically refuses" to attend the Moscow ceremonies.

But, Landsbergis said, it cannot be ruled out that Justas Paleckis, foreign policy adviser to the Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, "will do everything to 'pack' Brazauskas and deliver him to Moscow to celebrate the victory."

In his opinion, a trip by any of the Baltic leaders to Moscow would "place us in a satellite position, a political space that Russia constantly attempts to fix as the CIS plus the Baltic states."

Prime Minister: Rumors Increased Interest Rates

WS1503155995 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 14, BNS—Increased bank interest rates in Lithuania are a result of rumors about a possible markdown of national currency, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said Tuesday [14 March]. "We are now paying the price for speculative statements about possible devaluation of the litas," Slezevicius told a news conference. But in his opinion, higher interest rates are a temporary phenomenon that will soon end.

Bank interests on deposits rose from an average of 17.62 percent to 19.65 over the past two months. Interest on treasury bills grew from 25 to 32 percent. Slezevicius noted that the increase contradicts the general goals of Lithuania.

He also announced that the government, the Finance Ministry and the central bank are discussing the possibility to start selling treasury bills at the Vilnius stock exchange. Slezevicius said the step is expected to liven up trade and cut interest rates.

The premier said the exchange sale of treasury bills is to begin in one or two weeks.

Justice Minister Warning to Polish Electoral Bloc

WS1503160795 Tallinn BNS in English 1200 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 15, BNS—The Lithuanian justice minister declared in parliament Tuesday [14 March] that the election program of the Polish Electoral Action [PEA] contradicts the Constitution, state language, self-government and some other laws.

Jonas Prapiestis presented his conclusions about the PEA program at the request of MP Bronislovas Genzelis, chairman of the parliament's Education, Science and Culture Committee.

Genzelis had asked the minister to examine whether certain principles of the Polish bloc's program for the March 25 local elections conform to the Constitution, namely intentions to seek creation of the Vilnius province on the basis of predominantly- Polish populated Vilnius and Salcininkai regions and to legalize the official use of three languages in some parts of the country.

Prapiestis said the PEA program would cause no doubt from the point of view of the law if it were meant for general elections and would suggest to solve the above problems in a parliamentary way. However, the purpose of self-governments is to "carry out laws and government decisions" but not to "sabotage" them and urge active resistance to certain laws, the minister noted.

"When a program does not indicate the methods and forms of achieving aims, we of course can even distinguish a call to confront the official policy of the Republic of Lithuania," he added.

Prapiestis said the Justice Ministry would warn the PEA and later decide whether to suspend its activities depending on the reaction.

The official also noted that it is not the Justice Ministry's duty to observe the electoral process or to assess programs of political forces. In his opinion, legislation is necessary to oblige political organizations to present documents regulating their political activities to the Justice Ministry.

Prapiestis pointed out that the PEA program also requires a political assessment. "I don't know the official estimation. Consequently, in a sense, this inquiry means election struggle in the lips of the justice minister," Prapiestis said. He also urged the parliament to express its position on the problem in a special statement.

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